

2020 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) was established August 8, 1969, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1659 and Supplement 1 pursuant to the authority contained in 5 U.S.C. 301 and the Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953. FNS is the Federal agency responsible for managing the 15 domestic nutrition assistance programs. Its mission is to increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and other low-income Americans access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education.

Over the past half-century – beginning with the National School Lunch Program in 1946 – the Nation has gradually built an array of nutrition assistance programs designed to help the most vulnerable populations meet their food needs. Taken together, these programs promote food security and healthy nutritious diets among low-income families and individuals as they seek self-sufficiency. Currently, the programs administered by FNS touch the lives of one in four Americans over the course of a year.

FNS remains focused on improving the health and well-being of all Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links the latest body of scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers. FNS leads food, nutrition, and economic analyses that inform Federal and State programs; translates science into actionable food and nutrition guidance for all Americans; and leads national communication initiatives that help advance consumers' dietary and economic knowledge and inform choices.

Descriptions of Programs:**FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE**

The nutrition assistance programs described below work both individually and in concert with one another to improve the nutrition and health of the Nation's children and other low-income Americans.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, SNAP is the cornerstone of the Nation's nutrition assistance safety net, touching the lives of more than 38 million Americans each month. It provides nutrition assistance to participants, the majority of whom are children, the elderly, or people with disabilities, helping them put food on the table using benefits that can be redeemed at authorized food retailers across the country. State agencies are responsible for the administration of the program according to national eligibility and benefit standards set by Federal law and regulations. The Food and Nutrition Service is responsible for authorizing and monitoring participating retailers. Benefits are 100 percent Federally-financed, while administrative costs are shared between the Federal and State Governments.

SNAP provides the basic nutrition assistance benefit for low-income people in the United States. Other FNS programs supplement this program with benefits targeted to special populations, dietary needs and delivery settings. (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands receive grant funds to provide food and nutrition assistance in lieu of SNAP).

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR): FDPIR provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations, and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. Many households participate in FDPIR as an alternative to SNAP, because they do not have easy access to SNAP offices or authorized food stores. Dual participation in SNAP and FDPIR is not permitted. State agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) that operate the program are responsible for eligibility certification, nutrition education, local warehousing and transportation of food, distribution of food to recipient households, and program integrity. The Federal Government pays 100 percent of the cost of USDA Foods distributed through the program and provides cash payments for administrative expenses.

Child Nutrition Programs (CNP): The Child Nutrition Programs - National School Lunch (NSLP), School Breakfast (SBP), Special Milk (SMP), Child and Adult Care Food (CACFP), and Summer Food Service (SFSP) - provide reimbursement to State and local governments for nutritious meals and snacks served to about 35 million children in schools, child care institutions, summer sites and after school care programs. CACFP also supports meal service in adult day care centers. FNS provides cash and USDA-purchased foods on a per-meal basis to offset the cost of food service at the local level and a significant portion of State and local administrative expenses, and provides training, technical assistance, and nutrition education. Payments are higher for meals served free or at a reduced price to children from low-income families.

In addition, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides access to fresh fruits and vegetables for students in low-income elementary schools across the nation. FFVP, authorized and funded under Section 19 of the

Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and expanded by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, operates in selected low-income elementary schools in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. States select schools to participate based on criteria in the law and participating students receive between \$50 and \$75 worth of fresh produce over the school year.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): WIC addresses the supplemental nutritional needs of at-risk, low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children up to five years of age. It provides participants monthly supplemental food packages targeted to their dietary needs, breastfeeding support to nursing mothers, nutrition education, and referrals to a range of health and social services – benefits that promote a healthy pregnancy for mothers and a healthy start for their children. Appropriated funds are provided to State agencies for food packages and nutrition services and administration for the program; State agencies operate the program pursuant to plans approved by FNS.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): This program supports the emergency food organization network by distributing USDA-purchased, 100 percent domestically grown foods for use by emergency feeding organizations including soup kitchens, food recovery organizations, and food banks. The foods are also provided to other types of local organizations, such as community action agencies, which distribute the foods directly to low-income households. TEFAP also provides administrative funds to defray State and local costs associated with transportation, processing, storage, and distribution of USDA Foods or those provided through private donations. The allocation of both Federal food and administrative grants to States is based on a formula that considers the States' unemployment levels and the number of persons with income below the poverty level.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): CSFP works to improve the health of low-income elderly persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. Participants receive a monthly food package of USDA Foods. State agencies are provided funding to cover State and local administrative costs such as nutrition education, warehousing, food delivery, and participant certification. States work with local agencies to distribute the monthly food package to participants.

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP): This program provides coupons to low-income seniors that can be exchanged for fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs.

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP): FMNP provides WIC participants, including women, infants older than 4 months, and children up to the age of 5 with special coupons to purchase and consume fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs directly from farmers, farmers' markets and roadside stands.

Pacific Island and Disaster Assistance: Pacific Island Assistance includes assistance to the nuclear-affected islands of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in the form of cash-in-lieu of food and administrative funds through the Special Food Assistance Program and is authorized under the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-188). Disaster relief in the form of USDA Foods can be provided to the RMI and Federated States of Micronesia for use in Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Federal nutrition assistance programs operate as partnerships between FNS and the State and local organizations that interact directly with program participants. States voluntarily enter into agreements with the Federal Government to operate programs according to Federal standards in exchange for program funds that cover all benefit costs, and a significant portion, if not all, of administrative expenses.

Under these agreements, FNS is responsible for implementing statutory requirements that set national program standards for eligibility and benefits, providing Federal funding to State and local partners, and for conducting monitoring and evaluation activities to make sure that program structures and policies are properly implemented and effective in meeting program missions. State and local organizations are responsible for delivering benefits efficiently, effectively, and in a manner consistent with federal regulations.

FNS serves as a Federal authority on evidence-based food, nutrition and economic analyses, guidance, and consumer nutrition education. It is non-regulatory, with several initiatives that serve as the foundation for many Federal departments' and agencies' policies and programs. FNS initiatives include:

- *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, mandated under the 1990 National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act to provide dietary guidance for people aged 2 years and older, expanded to include guidance for infants and toddlers from birth to 24 months, and for pregnant women, per the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill), written for a professional audience, and a central source that nutrition programs across the Federal Government can implement "with one voice" as they tailor it for their specific program audiences;

- Healthy Eating Index (HEI), an analytic tool used to assess how well diets align with the Dietary Guidelines, used widely by Federal agencies including many agencies within the USDA, such as FNS, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the Economic Research Service;
- Nutrition Evidence Library (NEL), the only resource in the Federal Government that specializes in food- and nutrition-related systematic reviews that answer important public health questions by evaluating all available scientific evidence on topics relevant to Federal policy and programs;
- Annual Expenditures on Children by Families report, also known as the Cost of Raising a Child, which estimates the cost of raising children from birth through age 17 for a broad range of spending categories that American families consider in raising children, and relied on by many courts and state governments to calculate child support and foster care payments, as well as by banking institutions and family-oriented not-for profit (public health and education professionals) agencies for informing customers as they plan for family costs;
- USDA Food Plans (Thrifty, Low Cost, Moderate Cost, and Liberal) that exemplify nutritious diets at four cost levels and can help Americans eat healthfully on a budget, and a reference source for other Federal needs such as setting the maximum allotment for SNAP, per Congressional mandate, being used in bankruptcy courts to ensure people are left with enough money to buy food, and serving as the source (Moderate Cost and Liberal Food Plans) for the Department of Defense to determine the Basic Allowance for Subsistence (the food allowance) paid to U.S. service members, as well as the Basic Daily Food Allowance used for reimbursement rates for dining facilities on military bases; and
- MyPlate, which serves as the foundation to Federal, state and local agencies' consumer nutrition education initiatives and is recognized by 6 in 10 Americans surveyed.

FNS Staff

FNS employees are an important resource for advancing the key outcomes sought through the nutrition assistance programs. The agency staff serves to ensure and leverage the effective use of the program appropriations.

FNS staff is funded primarily out of the Nutrition Programs Administration account, which represents approximately two-tenths of one percent of the total FNS budget. The agency employment level represents less than two percent of the total employment within USDA and is similarly small in proportion to the total State-level staff needed to operate the programs. The agency employs people from a variety of disciplines, including policy and management analysts, nutritionists, computer experts, communications professionals, accountants, investigators, and program evaluators. Because of the small size of the agency's staff relative to the resources it manages, FNS has created clear and specific performance measures and must focus its management efforts in a limited number of high-priority areas.

Program operations are managed through FNS' seven regional offices and 19 field offices/satellite locations. A regional administrator directs each regional office. These offices maintain direct contact with State agencies that administer the FNS programs and conduct on-site management reviews of State operations. The Retailer Operations Division monitors the more than 256,516 stores and other outlets as of September 30, 2018 authorized to redeem SNAP benefits.

As of September 30, 2018, there were approximately 1,465 full-time permanent employees in the agency. There were 555 employees in the Washington headquarters office; and 910 in the field, which includes seven regional offices and 19 field/satellite offices. The chart below displays staff year utilization.

Staff Year Distribution

Table FNS-1. Staff Year Distribution (From All Sources of Funds)

FNS Projects and CNPP	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	Change	2020 President's Budget
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	370	362	377	-1	376
Child Nutrition Programs	290	276	290	+3	293
Commodity Assistance Program	3	3	3	-3	0
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children	44	40	44	0	44
Nutrition Programs Administration	839	789	818	-3	815
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion*	28	23	26	0	26
Total Available	1,574	1,493	1,558	0	1,554

* CNPP Staff Year Distribution includes four staff years funded by the Child Nutrition Programs.

OIG and GAO Reports of National Significance

Table FNS-2. OIG Audits Issued

Area	Number	Date	Title	Status
Financial Management	27401-0002-11	11-2017	Food and Nutrition Service Financial Statements for Fiscal Years 2017 and 2016	Report contained an unmodified opinion with no recommendations.
SNAP	27601-0013-10	12-2017	Compilation Report of State's Compliance with SNAP Requirements for Participating State Agencies (7 CFR Part 272)	Final action pending on open recommendations.
CN	27601-0004-41	3-2018	FNS Controls Over the Summer Food Service Program	Final action pending on open recommendations.
SNAP	27601-0019-10	9-2018	Compilation Report of States' Compliance with Requirements for the Issuance and Use of SNAP Benefits (7 CFR Part 274)	Final action pending on open recommendations.

*Includes only those audits where FNS is the lead agency.

Table FNS-3. GAO Audits Issued

Area	Number	Date	Title	Status
WIC & OPS	GAO-18-125R	11-2017	WIC: USDA's Review of Vegetables under the Program Followed Leading Research Practices	Report made no recommendations to USDA. Audit closed upon issuance of final report.
SNAP	GAO-18-377	5-2018	Improper Payments: Actions and Guidance Could Help Address Issues and Inconsistencies in Estimation Processes.	Report made no recommendations to USDA. Audit closed upon issuance of final report.
CN	GAO-18-369	7-2018	Summer Meals: Actions Needed to Improve Participation Estimates and Address Program Challenges	At a minimum, FNS will update GAO annually on our progress with the four recommendations.

*Includes only those audits where FNS is the lead agency.

Table FNS-4. OIG Audits/Inspections in Process

Area	Number	Initiation Date	Title	Current Audit Stage
WIC	27601-0002-23	4-2018	Assessment of WIC Program Integrity and Monitoring Branch	Fieldwork complete. Agency closeout meeting scheduled.
SNAP, FNS MARO	27702-0001-22	5-2018	Review of FNS' Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) as a Result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria	Fieldwork ongoing.
FDD	27601-0001-21	5-2018	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	Fieldwork ongoing.
SNAP, Financial Management	27601-0004-22	7-2018	SNAP Employment and Training Pilot Projects	Fieldwork ongoing.
CN	27601-0005-41	7-2018	Consolidated Report of FNS and Selected Agencies' Controls Over the SFSP	Fieldwork ongoing.
WIC	26601-0003-23	7-2018	Nationwide Implementation of WIC EBT	Fieldwork ongoing.

*Includes only those audits where FNS is the lead agency.

Table FNS-5. GAO Audits/Inspections in Process

Area	Number	Initiation Date	Title	Current Audit Stage
CN	102857	7-2018	School Meals Program Review	Fieldwork complete. Formal exit conference scheduled.
All Programs, CNPP	102892	7-2018	Nutrition Programs for Older Adults	Fieldwork ongoing.

*Includes only those audits where FNS is the lead agency.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND STAFF YEARS*Table FNS-6. Available Funds and Staff Years (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))*

Item	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.....	\$ 70,773,607	370	\$ 69,428,147	362	\$ 70,495,978	377	\$ 66,154,910	376
Child Nutrition Programs								
Appropriation.....	13,163,031	265	14,611,628	254	15,211,135	265	11,323,677	267
Permanent Appropriation.....	200,028	29	197,129	26	195,250	29	199,250	30
Transfer from Section 32	9,503,998	-	8,872,807	-	9,092,869	-	13,594,567	-
Total, Child Nutrition	22,867,057	294	23,681,564	280	24,499,254	294	25,117,494	297
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.....	6,399,898	44	6,039,000	40	5,586,938	44	5,765,000	44
Commodity Assistance Program Nutrition Programs	313,471	3	362,167	3	439,590	3	80,071	-
Administration	147,862	863	147,134	808	151,841	840	152,041	837
Congressional Hunger Center ...	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Park Office Center Relocation ..	-	-	914	-	16,786	-	-	-
Child Nutrition Study	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Food and Nutrition Service Funds.....	100,504,895	1,573	99,660,926	1,493	101,192,387	1,558	97,269,516	1,554
Obligations under other USDA Appropriations:								
Foreign Agriculture Service.....	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
Office of the Chief Information Officer.....	11	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
Office of the Chief Scientist.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office of the Secretary	69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office of Communications	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-
Office of Congressional Relations	150	-	180	-	-	-	-	-
Office of the Assist. Sec. for Civil Rights	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office of Inspector General.....	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Office of Tribal Relations	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Safety and Inspection Service	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Economic Research Service	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
National Appeals Division	54	-	29	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Service Agency	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Development	11	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Agriculture Appropriations	436	-	397	-	-	-	-	-
Other Federal Funds:								
Health and Human Services	-	-	177	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Other Federal Funds	436	-	574	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Food and Nutrition Service Funds.....	100,505,331	1,574	99,661,500	1,493	101,192,387	1,558	97,269,516	1,554

Note: For additional explanation of specific program figures, please see the supporting project statements.

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND STAFF YEARS

Table FNS-7. Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Years

Item	2017 Actual			2018 Actual			2019 Estimate			2020 Budget		
	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES	9	8	17	9	8	17	9	8	17	9	8	17
GS-15.....	45	30	75	44	31	75	44	31	75	44	31	75
GS-14.....	112	89	201	109	83	192	109	83	192	109	83	192
GS-13.....	294	230	524	295	230	525	295	230	525	295	230	525
GS-12.....	58	474	532	68	542	610	69	542	611	65	542	607
GS-11.....	33	81	114	29	37	66	29	37	66	29	37	66
GS-9.....	34	35	69	16	8	24	16	8	24	16	8	24
GS-8.....	11	1	12	10	1	11	10	1	11	10	1	11
GS-7.....	8	21	29	5	20	25	5	20	25	5	20	25
GS-6.....	3	4	7	3	4	7	3	4	7	3	4	7
GS-5.....	-	3	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
GS-4.....	3	-	3	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
Other Graded	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1
Ungraded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Permanent....	610	977	1,587	590	967	1,557	591	967	1,558	587	967	1,554
Unfilled, EOY.....	22	23	45	35	57	92	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Perm. FT EOY	588	954	1,542	555	910	1,465	591	967	1,558	587	967	1,554
Staff Year Est.....	598	976	1,574	567	926	1,493	591	967	1,558	587	967	1,554

MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET

The FNS fleet consists largely of sedans. Retailer Investigations Branch officials employ the majority of these vehicles in field audits as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Additionally, and to a much lesser extent, vehicles are assigned to FNS regional offices and used for business travel among their field offices and remote worksites. Lastly, FNS uses two 12-passenger vans and one 7-passenger ADA van at Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia for all-day shuttle service to the USDA agencies in downtown Washington, D.C.

Replacement Criteria

FNS retires or replaces vehicles based upon age, use, operating costs, and maintenance costs.

Changes to Motor Vehicle Fleet

The overall fleet decreased by eight vehicles to a count of 38 from 46. The Agency returned eleven vehicles that were underutilized based on USDA’s minimum yearly usage requirement of 7,500 miles. FNS added three vehicles to accommodate the Retailer Investigations Branch investigators (one each in the Midwest region, Mountain Plains region, and Southwest region). Investigators use the motor vehicles fleet to conduct compliance monitoring for retailer oversight and integrity of stores participating in the SNAP program.

Impediments to Managing the Motor Vehicle Fleet

One impediment to managing the motor vehicle fleet in the most cost-effective manner is the availability of FLEX fuel stations that are accessible in the area.

Table FNS-8. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet^a

Fiscal Year	Sedans and Station Wagons	Lt. Trucks, SUVs, and Vans (4x2)	Lt. Trucks, SUVs, and Vans (4x4)	Medium Duty Vehicles	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs ^b
2017	24	15	4	3	-	46	\$165
Change	-5	-3	-	-	-	-8	-32
2018	19	12	4	3	-	38	133
Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	19	12	4	3	-	38	133
Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	19	12	4	3	-	38	133

^a Vehicle count include those owned by agency and leased from commercial sources or GSA.

^b These numbers revise data in the FAST System.

STATEMENT OF PROPOSED PURCHASE OF PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES (SEDANS & STATION WAGONS)

Table FNS-9. Proposed Purchase of Passenger Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Acquisitions		Net Active Fleet, EOY
				Additions to Fleet	Total	
FY 2017	24	-5	-	-	-	19
FY 2018	19	-	-	-	-	19
FY 2019	19	-	-	-	-	19
FY 2020	19	-	-	-	-	19

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS*Table FNS-10. Shared Funding Projects (dollars in thousands)*

Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
Working Capital Fund:				
Material Management Service Center.....	\$95	\$87	\$71	\$82
Mail and Reproduction Services.....	28	39	80	84
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	274	277	280	298
Procurement Operations Division.....	17	17	10	8
HR Enterprise System Management.....	14	20	17	18
Subtotal.....	428	440	458	490
Creative Media and Broadcast Center.....	490	1,585	1,952	1,399
National Finance Center.....	1,039	1,536	1,165	1,210
Internal Control Support Services.....	145	175	162	162
Financial Shared Services.....	867	914	935	931
Subtotal.....	2,051	2,625	2,262	2,303
Client Experience Center.....	1,002	896	1,342	1,317
Digital Infrastructure Services Center.....	2,956	2,793	3,811	3,811
Enterprise Network Services.....	432	495	1,234	1,237
Subtotal.....	4,390	4,184	6,387	6,365
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	154	139	182	181
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	7,513	8,973	11,241	10,738
Departmental Shared Cost Programs:				
1890 USDA Initiatives.....	60	-	-	-
Advisory Committee Liaison Services.....	3	3	4	4
Agency Partnership Outreach.....	-	116	118	118
Classified National Security Information.....	10	-	-	-
Continuity of Operations Planning.....	33	-	-	-
Emergency Operations Center.....	38	-	-	-
Facility and Infrastructure Review and Assessment.....	7	-	-	-
Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.....	7	-	-	-
Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program.....	32	-	-	-
Honor Awards.....	-	-	1	1
Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard.....	10	9	9	10
Human Resources Transformation.....	27	14	-	-
Identity Access Management.....	109	-	-	-
Office of Customer Experience.....	-	30	47	57
People's Garden.....	11	8	-	-
Personnel and Document Security.....	-	46	43	43
Personnel Security Branch.....	29	-	-	-
Security Detail.....	55	69	69	69
Security Operations.....	-	162	159	159
TARGET Center.....	24	21	17	17
USDA 1994 Program.....	13	-	-	-
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services.....	-	-	-	81
Virtual University.....	33	16	-	-
Total, Departmental Shared Cost Programs.....	501	494	467	559
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution LOB.....	17	17	17	17

2020 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan	37	37	32	37
Enterprise HR Integration	31	31	30	31
E-Rulemaking	191	236	155	-
Financial Management LOB	1	1	1	1
Geospatial LOB	12	13	12	12
GovBenefits	134	138	124	140
Grants.gov	27	25	28	24
HR Management LOB	4	5	4	5
Integrated Acquisition Environment	229	234	253	-
Total, E-Gov	683	737	656	267
Agency Total	8,697	10,204	12,364	11,564

ACCOUNT 1: CHILD NUTRITION**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT****Table FNS-11. Child Nutrition Lead-Off Tabular Statement**

Item	Amount
2019 Annualized Continuing Resolution.....	\$23,139,189,000
Change in Appropriation	+804,027,000
Budget Estimate, 2020.....	<u>23,943,216,000</u>
Budget Estimate, Current Law 2020	\$23,943,216,000
Change Due to Proposed Legislation	+453,580,000
Net 2020 Request	<u>24,396,796,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21; \$23,943,216,000 to remain available through September 30, 2021, of which such sums as are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided herein: Provided, That of the total amount available, \$12,475,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.): Provided further, That of the total amount available, \$14,999,000 shall be available to carry out studies and evaluations and shall remain available until expended; Provided further, That section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ``2010 through 2018" and inserting ``2010 through 2020": Provided further, That section 9(h)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ``For fiscal year 2019" and inserting ``For fiscal year 2020": Provided further, That section 9(h)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ``For fiscal year 2019" and inserting ``For fiscal year 2020".

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-12. Project Statement Appropriated CN funding (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))**

Item	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Team Nutrition/HUSSC.....	\$17,004	29	\$17,004	28	\$17,004	27	-\$4,529	(1)		\$12,475	27
Summer Demo.....	23,000		28,000		28,000		-28,000	(2)			
School Meal Equipment Grants.....	25,000		30,000		30,000		-30,000	(3)			
Subtotal.....	65,004	29	75,004	28	75,004	27	-62,529			12,475	27
Mandatory Appropriations:											
National School Lunch Program.....	12,339,758		13,133,155		12,091,834		+634,382	(4)		12,726,216	
School Breakfast Program.....	4,470,247		4,807,380		4,816,238		+113,053	(5)		4,929,291	
Child Adult Care Food Program.....	3,490,937		3,832,748		3,815,328		+24,347	(6)		3,839,675	
Summer Food Service Program.....	627,095	15	563,817	15	519,456	16	+32,472	(7)		551,928	16
Special Milk Program.....	9,176		8,767		8,065		-880	(8)		7,185	
State Administrative Expenses.....	279,058		297,278		302,571		+12,559	(9)		315,130	
Commodity Procurement.....	1,428,089	12	1,461,755	11	1,436,458	14	+36,171	(10)		1,472,629	14
Food Safety Education.....	2,897	6	2,880	6	2,880	6	+49	(11)		2,929	6
Coordinated Review.....	10,000	68	10,000	68	10,000	68			+3	10,000	71
Computer Support.....	11,941	16	11,921	16	11,921	17	+203	(12)		12,124	17
Training Tech. Assistance.....	23,137	45	13,702	42	13,702	45	+20,233	(13)		33,935	45
CN Studies.....	21,328	10	21,277	9	21,277	10	-6,278	(14)		14,999	10
CN Payment Accuracy.....	11,147	52	11,016	48	11,016	49	+187	(15)		11,203	49
Farm to School Team.....	4,168	12	3,439	11	3,439	13	+58	(16)	-1	3,497	12
Subtotal.....	22,728,978	236	24,179,135	226	23,064,185	238	+866,556		+2	23,930,741	240
Total Adjusted Approp.....	22,793,982	265	24,254,139	254	23,139,189	265	+804,027		+2	23,943,216	267
Sequestration.....	-4,230		-3,989		-3,754		+3,754				
Total Appropriation.....	22,789,752	265	24,250,150	254	23,135,435	265	+807,781		+2	23,943,216	267
Sequestration.....	4,230		3,989		3,754		-3,754				
Recoveries, Other (Net).....	258,751		433,358								
Bal. Available, SOY.....	801,099		1,077,062		2,162,957		-1,187,929			975,028	
Total Available.....	23,853,832	265	25,764,559	254	25,302,146	265	-383,902		+2	24,918,244	267
Lapsing Balances.....	-109,741		-117,167		-23,114		+23,114				
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-1,077,062		-2,162,957		-975,028		+975,028				
Total Obligations.....	22,667,029	265	23,484,435	254	24,304,004	265	+614,240		+2	24,918,244	267

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-13. Project Statement Permanent CN funding (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))**

Item	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	Inc. or Dec.	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Mandatory Appropriations ^a										
Information Clearinghouse.....	\$250		\$250		\$250				\$250	
Institute of Child Nutrition.....	5,000		5,000		5,000				5,000	
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.....	168,000	3	297,000	2	176,000	4	+\$4,000	+1	180,000	5
Technical Assistance Program Integrity	4,000	22	4,000	20	4,000	20			4,000	21
Administrative Review.....	4,000	3	4,000	3	4,000	4			4,000	3
Professional Standards – Foodservice .	1,000	1	1,000	1	1,000	1			1,000	1
Farm to School Grants	5,000		5,000		5,000				5,000	
Subtotal	187,250	29	316,250	26	195,250	29			199,250	30
Total Adjusted Approp.....	187,250	29	316,250	26	195,250	29			199,250	30
Resc, Trans, Other (Net)	-168,000	-3	-297,000	-2	-176,000	-4			-180,000	-5
Total Appropriation.....	19,250	26	19,250	24	19,250	25	-	-	19,250	25
Transfers In:										
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.....	168,000	3	297,000	2	176,000	4	+4,000	+1	180,000	5
Recoveries, Other (Net).....	16,340		22,312	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY.....	89,265		92,827		234,260		-	-	234,260	
Total Available.....	292,855	29	431,389	26	429,510	29	+4,000	+1	433,510	30
Bal. Available, EOY	-92,827	-	-234,260	-	-234,260	-	-	-	-234,260	-
Total Obligations.....	200,028	29	197,129	26	195,250	29	+4,000	+1	199,250	30

^a The program lines in table FNS-3 are not subject to appropriation.

Table FNS-14. Direct Appropriations Authorities

Direct Appropriation and Transfer Activities	Authorization
Information Clearinghouse	National School Lunch Act (NSLA) Sect. 26(d)
Institute of Child Nutrition	NSLA Sect. 21(e)(1)(A)
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (transfer)	NSLA Sect. 19(i)(1)
Technical Assistance Program Integrity	NSLA Sect. 21(g)(1)(A)
Grants to States (Administrative Review)	Child Nutrition Act (CNA) Sect. 7(h)(1)
Professional Standards – Foodservice	CNA Sect. 7(g)(3)(A)
Farm to School Grants	NSLA Sect. 18(g)(8)(A)

Child Nutrition

Base funds for Child Nutrition Programs will continue to fund school, child and adult care, and summer meal programs that are correlated with a long-term improvement in the nutritional content of American diets.

The FY 2020 request for the Child Nutrition Programs reflects a net increase of \$804,027 and an increase of 2 staff years (\$23,139,189,000 and 265 staff years estimated in FY 2019).

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Chg Key column of the Project Statement:

- (1) A decrease of \$4,529,000 for Team Nutrition (\$17,004,000 estimated in FY 2019).

Team Nutrition supports the Child Nutrition Programs through training and technical assistance for food service, nutrition education for children and their caregivers, and school and community support for healthy eating and physical activity. Team Nutrition is an integrated, behavior-based, comprehensive plan for promoting the nutritional health of the Nation's children. This plan involves schools, parents, and the community in efforts to continuously improve school meals, and to promote the health and education of school children nationwide. The funding supports FNS' efforts to establish policy, develop materials that meet needs

identified by FNS and its state and local partners, disseminate materials in ways that meet state and local needs, and develop partnerships with other Federal agencies and national organizations. Reduced funds are being requested due to the sunset of the Healthier U.S. School Challenge (HUSSC) program. In addition, FNS is exploring a streamlined approach to Team Nutrition grant award to States. Due to competing priorities for discretionary funding, the Team Nutrition request is decreased by \$4,529,000.

(2) A decrease of \$28,000,000 for Summer EBT Demonstration (\$28,000,000 estimated in FY 2019).

General Provision 749 of the 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-80) authorized demonstration projects to develop and test alternative methods of providing access to food for low-income children during the summer months when schools are not in regular session, as well as rigorous independent evaluations of each project's effectiveness. As part of those original demonstrations, FNS implemented the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) pilots in 8 States and 2 Indian Tribal Nations providing low income families with children more resources to use at retail food stores on EBT cards similar to those used in SNAP and WIC. The impact evaluation of Summer EBT proved it to be a successful model in reducing very low food insecurity among children and improving children's diets. As the demonstrations have been evaluated, no additional funds are being requested for Summer EBT in FY 2020.

(3) A decrease of \$30,000,000 for School Meal Equipment Grants (\$30,000,000 estimated in FY 2019)

Between FY 2009 and FY 2018, FNS distributed \$270 million in grants to help schools purchase the equipment needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, expand access and/or improve energy efficiency. The grants were targeted to schools, particularly in low-income areas, that needed additional assistance to meet updated meal standards. As the updated meal standards have been in effect for several years, the need for this assistance has diminished. However, necessary school equipment remains an allowable use of funds within school food authority accounts.

(4) An increase of \$634,382,000 for National School Lunch Program (\$12,091,834,000 estimated for FY 2019)

This increase in requested funding for FY 2020 reflects the use of anticipated carry over funding in FY 2019. The total number of school lunches and snacks in FY 2020 is projected to be 5.28 billion, an increase of 53.2 million (or 1.0 percent) over the current estimate for FY 2019 of 5.22 billion. Student participation in the NSLP is expected to continue at almost 60 percent of enrollment in participating schools. Free lunches are estimated at 68.1 percent of all lunches served in FY 2019, which is slightly lower than the proportion of lunches estimated to be served free in FY 2019 (68.2 percent). This request also reflects the cost of the six-cent performance-based reimbursement rate increase authorized in Section 4(b)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and of snacks served under the after-school NSLP snack program created by the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-336).

Table FNS-15. National School Lunch Program Performance Measure

NSLP Performance Measure	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Lunches Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	1,297	1,247	1,325	1,343
130% - 185% of poverty	317	289	273	276
Below 130% of poverty	3,267	3,315	3,433	3,462
Total Lunches	4,881	4,851	5,031	5,080
Average Daily Participation (millions)	30	30	30	31
Lunch Rate per meal (blended, cents):				
Above 185% of poverty	36	37	37	39
130% - 185% of poverty	284	291	298	308
Below 130% of poverty	324	331	338	348
Snacks Served (millions):				

NSLP Performance Measure	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Above 185% of poverty	7	7	6	6
130% - 185% of poverty	1	1	1	1
Below 130% of poverty	198	183	185	188
Total Snacks	206	190	191	195
Snack subsidy per meal (blended)(cents):				
Above 185% of poverty	7	8	8	8
130% - 185% of poverty	43	44	45	46
Below 130% of poverty	87	89	91	93
TOTAL, Lunches and Snacks	5,263	5,041	5,222	5,276
Total Meal Reimbursement (millions)	12,303	12,761	13,245	13,701

Other information: Income Eligibility

Eligibility for rates of payment in the Child Nutrition Programs is tied to family income with free meal eligibility set at 130 percent of the Federal poverty level and reduced price meals at 185 percent. The pertinent income levels for a family of four are shown below (rates are higher for Alaska and Hawaii):

Table FNS-16. Income Eligibility for a Family of Four

Poverty Level (Family of 4)	2017-2018 School Year	2018-2019 School Year
100 Percent.....	\$24,600	\$25,100
130 Percent.....	31,980	32,630
185 Percent.....	45,510	46,435

(5) An increase of \$113,053,000 for the School Breakfast Program (\$4,816,238,000 estimated for FY 2019).

The current estimate projects an increase of 68.2 million breakfasts in FY 2020. Changes in the reimbursement rates, reflecting increases in the CPI for Food Away from Home, contributed to the need for increased funding as well as increased participation rates.

Table FNS-17. School Breakfast Program Performance Measure

SBP Performance Measure	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Meals Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	363	355	380	389
Reduce Price, Regular.....	9	9	9	10
Reduce Price, Severe Need	127	116	129	129
130%-185% of poverty, Total.....	136	125	138	139
Free, Regular	63	66	62	64
Free, Severe Need.....	1,845	1,868	1,957	2,014
Below 130% of poverty, Total.....	1,908	1,934	2,020	2,078
TOTAL, Meals	2,406	2,414	2,537	2,606
Average Daily participation (millions)	15	15	15	15
Average Subsidy Per Meal (cents):				
Paid.....	29	30	31	31
Reduced Price:.....				
Regular	142	146	150	154
Severe Need.....	175	180	185	190

SBP Performance Measure	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Free:.....				
Regular	172	176	180	184
Severe Need.....	205	210	215	220
Program Total (millions)	4,386	4,645	4,807	4,929

(6) An increase of \$24,347,000 for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (\$3,815,328,000 estimated for FY 2019)

Year to year funding fluctuations are affected by increased participation and changes in the CPI for Food Away from Home (for centers) and for Food at Home (for homes). The current estimate projects 2.08 billion meals served in childcare centers, family day care homes and adult care centers in FY 2020. This represents an increase of almost 18.2 million meals (or 0.9 percent) above the FY 2019 estimate of 2.06 billion meals.

The change is the net result of an anticipated 1.8 percent increase in meals provided in centers (an increase of almost 28.3 million meals) and a -2.3 percent decrease in meals provided in family day care homes (decrease of nearly 10 million meals). A -2.0 percent decrease in meals (8 million less than in FY 2019) is forecast for Tier 1 (low-income) family day care homes, while meals reimbursed at Tier 2 (upper income) homes are projected to fall -5.0 percent from FY 2019, continuing the current downward trend.

Table FNS-18. Child and Adult Care Program Performance Measure

CACFP Performance Measure	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Meals Served Centers (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty.....	381	382	385	390
130% - 185% of poverty.....	81	82	84	86
Below 130% of poverty.....	1,101	1,112	1,147	1,168
TOTAL, Centers.....	1,564	1,577	1,615	1,644
Tier 1 Homes (Low Income).....	430	408	402	394
Tier 2 Homes (Upper Income).....	55	51	42	40
TOTAL, Family Day Care Homes.....	485	459	444	434
Total Child & Adult Care Program Meals.....	2,049	2,036	2,060	2,078
Average Center Subsidy per meal (cents):				
Above 185% of poverty.....	21	22	22	22
130% - 185% of poverty.....	151	155	159	165
Below 130% of poverty.....	211	217	222	225
Average Home Subsidy per meal (cents):				
Tier 1 (Low Income).....	157	158	159	161
Tier 2 (Upper Income).....	71	72	73	74
Meal Reimbursement.....	3,470	3,577	3,618	3,663
Sponsor Admin.....	109	106	105	105
Audits.....	65	68	68	70
Training & Tech. Assistance.....	3	3	3	3
Program Total (millions).....	3,647	3,753	3,793	3,840

(7) An increase of \$32,472,000 for the Summer Food Service Program (\$519,456,000 estimated for FY 2019)

Changes in the reimbursement rates, reflecting increases in the CPI for Food Away from Home, contribute to the need for increased funding as well as increased participation rates. The current estimate projects 160.6 million meals, which is an increase of approximately 3.1 million meals (or 2.0 percent) above the estimate for FY 2019. In addition, the reimbursement rates will increase because of projected changes in the CPI for Food Away from Home.

Table FNS-19. Summer Food Service Program Performance Measure

SFSP Performance Measure	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Meals Served (millions):				
Summer Food Program.....	152	151	157	161
Average Subsidy Per Meal (cents):				

SFSP Performance Measure	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Lunch.....	347	355	363	381
Breakfast.....	199	204	208	218
Supplements.....	81	83	84	89
Program Total (millions)	506	512	528	552

(8) A decrease of \$880,000 for the Special Milk Program (\$8,065,000 estimated for FY 2019)

The cash reimbursement rate for milk served is adjusted annually on July 1 to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for fresh processed milk.

Table FNS-20. Special Milk Program Performance Measure

SMP Performance Measure	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Half Pints Served (millions):				
Paid (Above 130% of poverty)	37	35	32	30
Free (130% of poverty or below).....	4	4	4	4
Total, half pints.....	41	38	35	33
Reimbursement Rates (cents):				
Paid.....	20	21	21	22
Free.....	21	21	22	23
Program Total (millions)	9	8	8	7

(9) An increase of \$12,559,000 for State Administrative Expenses (\$302,571,000 estimated in FY 2019)

An appropriation of \$315,130,000 is needed in FY 2020 for State Administrative Expenses. The base amount of State Administrative Expenses available for allocation to States is equal to at least 1.5 percent of Federal cash program payments for the National School Lunch (excluding snacks), School Breakfast, CACFP (including snacks) and Special Milk Programs in the second previous fiscal year (i.e., FY 2017 for FY 2019). The request for funding increases is due to a rise in the expected program obligations for FY 2018, which is the base year for calculating the availability of funds for this program in FY 2020. State Administrative Expense funds are used to support State employee salaries, benefits, and other allowable administrative expenses necessary to implement and oversee program operations.

(10) An increase of \$36,171,000 for Commodity Procurement Expenses (\$1,436,458,000 estimated in FY 2019)

An appropriation of \$1,472,629,000 is needed to fund commodity reimbursement and procurement costs in FY 2020. The increase in funding is due to the increase in the number of meals served. Funding is provided for commodity purchases used in the School Lunch, Child and Adult Care Food, and the Summer Food Service Programs, including the costs of procuring those commodities. The estimate is in addition to FNS receiving \$465 million each year in support for entitlement commodities from Section 32 or Commodity Credit Corporation funds.

Section 6(e)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that not less than 12 percent of the total assistance provided under Sections 4, 6, and 11 of the Act be provided in commodities. The FY 2020 request includes funds to cover the 12 percent requirement and procurement costs

Table FNS-10. Commodity Performance Measure

Commodity Performance Measure	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
CN Appropriation:				
AMS/CCC Commodities	465	465	465	465
Section 6 Commodities/Cash/Procurement Costs.....	855	844	734	714
12% Commodity Floor Requirement.....	422	466	522	570
School Lunch Total.....	1,742	1,775	1,721	1,748
Child & Adult Care Food Program:				
Commodities/Cash.....	149	150	179	188

Commodity Performance Measure	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Estimate
Summer Food Service Program:				
Commodities.....	2	1	2	2
Program Total (millions)	1,893	1,927	1,902	1,938
Appropriation (millions).....	1,428	1,462	1,437	1,473

(11) An increase of \$49,000 for Food Safety Education (\$2,880,000 estimated in FY 2019).

Food safety education funds are used to reinforce and expand FNS’ efforts to provide Child Nutrition Programs operators with continuous, effective training and technical assistance in food safety and food defense for schools, summer feeding sites, childcare centers, family day care homes and adult care centers. FNS develops materials, ensures their delivery at all appropriate levels, makes training available at all possible levels, and facilitates the implementation of food safety requirements into the operators’ food service operations. The funds provide resources to help ensure the safety of foods served to school children, including training for State and local staff. The change consists of \$49,000 to match state and local index trends.

(12) An increase of \$203,000 for Computer Support (\$11,921,000 estimated in FY 2019).

This line supports the essential systems needed to administer the Child Nutrition Programs, including the federal staff required to operate and maintain those systems. These systems include the Web-Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM), which is used by State agencies and school food authorities to order commodities for the NSLP, and computer systems that support the activities of federal staff. This increase would provide continued maintenance for these vital systems. The change consists of \$203,000 to match state and local index trends.

(13) An increase of \$20,233,000 for Training and Technical Assistance (\$13,702,000 estimated in FY 2019).

Effective and continual training and technical assistance are necessary to help States properly administer the Child Nutrition Programs and to ensure States are equipped to identify and prevent fraud and abuse. This change reflects \$233,000 to match state and local index trends and an increase of \$20 million per year above the funding previously provided for technology grants as part of the current law proposal. These additional grant funds will provide reliable dedicated funds for technology and enable States to begin to modernize basic systems in order to improve program operations, oversight and overall program integrity.

(14) A decrease of \$6,278,000 for CN Studies (\$21,277,000 estimated in FY 2019).

FNS conducts a variety of studies, evaluations, and related activities that respond to the needs of policy makers and managers and help ensure that nutrition assistance programs achieve their goals effectively. This line supports the critical evaluations needed for the Child Nutrition Programs, including the federal staff needed to oversee this vital work. The change consists of a current law proposal to make CN Studies funds available until expended to allow for more efficiency and flexibility in conducting research and evaluation studies.

(15) An increase of \$187,000 for CN Payment Accuracy (\$11,016,000 estimated in FY 2019).

This funding supports FNS’ robust Federal oversight, monitoring and technical assistance, which are essential to the identification, prevention and resolution of erroneous payments. The change consists of \$187,000 to match state and local index trends.

(16) An increase of \$58,000 for the Farm to School Team (\$3,439,000 estimated in FY 2019).

The Farm to School initiative is an effort to connect schools (K - 12) with regional or local farms in order to serve healthy meals using locally produced foods. USDA recognizes the growing interest among school districts and communities to incorporate regionally and locally produced farm foods into the Child Nutrition Programs. The Farm to School Team supports local and regional food systems by facilitating alliances between program operators and their local food producers. Working with local and state authorities, school districts, farmers, and community partners, the Farm to School Team provides guidance to and develops mechanisms for assisting program operators in accessing local markets, enabling food producers to effectively service their local schools and communities, and facilitating communication between interested stakeholders. The change consists of \$58,000 to match state and local index trends.

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL**Child Nutrition*****CN Studies***

The current CN Studies account makes funding available for obligation through the end of the fiscal year following the budget year. This funding is used for projects included in an annual FNS research and evaluation plan provided for Congressional review, allocating resources both for relatively small-scale *ad hoc* analytical capacity in support of policymaking, and a number of cyclical larger scale studies and evaluations that occur every five and ten years and require higher budgets.

Managing to the current obligation window, requires larger annual appropriations to cover the cost of the largest projects, while also affording flexibility to respond to changing policy priorities.

Allowing a longer (“x-year”) obligation period, as currently used in some CN accounts, would enable the Agency to manage this funding line more efficiently over time, reducing the amount of budget authority needed in a given year by over 20 percent, as the Agency would be able to anticipate and plan for both larger and smaller studies budgets. At the same time, it would preserve the flexibility needed to respond to policy and program priorities, and expend the funds efficiently based on the scope of the studies.

This proposal would reduce annual CN Studies budget amount by \$6.64 million (indexed to with inflation per current practice.) and make the funds made available until expended.

Table FNS-22. Change in Funding Due to CN studies becoming x year (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$6.64	-\$6.77	-\$6.89	-\$7.02	-\$7.16	-\$72.36
Outlays	-\$1.99	-\$6.68	-\$6.81	-\$6.93	-\$7.06	-\$65.36

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL

Child Nutrition

Increase Funding for Child Nutrition Technology Grants

Provide \$25 million annually in funding for formula-based grants to States for purposes of developing, improving, and maintaining automated information systems used to operate and manage all Child Nutrition Programs. This would be an increase of \$20 million per year above the funding previously provided for technology grants under Child Nutrition Training and Technical Assistance.

These grant funds would support State agencies in implementing innovative technology solutions and incorporate functionality that allows for the seamless flow of program data from the school/site level to the district/sponsor and State levels. Funds would be used for technology-related activities that will improve overall program integrity, data accuracy, program performance measurement, and the capacity to identify and target error prone areas across the Child Nutrition Programs.

Currently, State agencies fund technology-related activities with either existing grant opportunities or State Administrative Expense (SAE) funds. Given the competing demands on limited SAE funds for activities and staff related to administrative reviews, States often are not able to prioritize technology upgrades that could streamline operations in the long run. These additional grant funds will provide reliable dedicated funds for technology and enable States to begin to modernize basic systems in order to improve program operations, oversight, and overall program integrity and will help reduce improper payments.

Table FNS-11. Change in Funding Due to Additional CN Technology Grants (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$20	+\$20	+\$20	+\$20	+\$20	+\$200
Outlays	+\$6	+\$20	+\$20	+\$20	+\$20	+\$86

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Child Nutrition

Raise the Farm to School grant limit

This proposal would permanently change the maximum amount a Farm to School grant recipient may receive, as specified in Section 18(g)(3)(C) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, from \$100,000 to \$500,000.

The Farm to School Grant Program serves a wide variety of stakeholders, including nonprofit organizations, tribes, schools, producers, and local and State agencies. USDA has received feedback from States and other stakeholders that \$100,000 is often not adequate to launch or expand Farm to School programming, hire and retain staff to oversee and sustain the work, or to cover administrative expenses plus programmatic expenses for a statewide program. State agencies continue to be high-priority partners and grantees, as USDA would like States to institutionalize Farm to School efforts into their routine operations, budgets, programs, and staffing. Raising the grant cap would allow States to integrate Farm to School into their structures as well as increase their reach, scope, and impact, and other stakeholders would be allowed to collaborate across multiple partners, districts, or other States. A larger award amount would also enable grantees to conduct higher impact work that is more likely to last beyond the end of the grant term. Raising the cap amount to \$500,000 would be consistent with other Child Nutrition grant programs. Finally, raising the cap would also allow USDA to streamline grants programming and provide better customer service to each grantee.

This proposal would have no impact on costs to the Federal government.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Child Nutrition Programs

Strengthen School Meal Verification Process

This proposal would amend section 9(b)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to increase the number of approved school meal applications selected for verification, and better focus the verification process on applications at risk for error. The proposal would increase the base verification sample size from 3 percent to 8 percent while offering lower rates to LEAs that satisfy one or more transparent performance-based thresholds. These thresholds are rationally tied to certification accuracy and verification outcomes and are designed to strengthen confidence in the process and reduce improper payments, while minimizing the loss of benefits by eligible children.

The proposal would allow LEAs or their State agencies, at their discretion, to select applications at a rate above the minimum sample size. This is designed to benefit LEAs with few approved applications that prefer to verify all applications to avoid singling out individual applicants for review, as well as LEAs that prefer to avoid the burden of selecting a valid sample. This also provides State agencies with an optional tool to reduce certification error where appropriate.

The proposal would improve the targeting of applications at high risk for error or intentional misreporting. The proposal uses objective, mandatory criteria to select these applications in an effort to assist LEAs that hesitate to use their discretion to select the same applications for cause. The proposal places additional emphasis on applications that provide assistance program case numbers in response to a recommendation from GAO. At the same time, it requires LEAs to adopt direct verification (using processes already in place for direct certification) to reduce the risk that eligible case number applicants lose their benefits.

The proposal would move the verification sample selection date to October 15 to broaden the verification base while limiting the sample rate. This will improve the equity of a verification process that increasingly places a disproportionate burden on households that complete applications early in the school year. And finally, the proposal would extend verification deadlines one month to relieve pressure on LEAs as they adjust to a larger verification sample size.

Table FNS-12. Change in Funding Due to School Meal Verification (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+0	+0	-\$28	-\$59	-\$61	-\$482

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Child Nutrition Programs

Each school must meet or exceed the identified student threshold to participate in Community Eligibility (CEP).

CEP allows high-poverty schools to serve school meals at no cost to all children without collecting household applications. Reimbursement to schools is based on the percentage of students directly certified for free school meals based on their participation in other means-tested assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. This “identified student percentage” (ISP) determines eligibility to elect CEP and the Federal reimbursements for breakfast and lunch. The current threshold to elect CEP is 40 percent.

Currently, local educational agencies (LEAs) may participate in CEP district wide, or may choose individual schools or groups of schools to participate. When an LEA elects CEP districtwide or for a group of schools, meals are reimbursed based on the number of identified students at all schools in the district or group. Schools with fewer low-income students can be grouped with schools serving higher percentages of low-income students, as long as the group meets the overall 40 percent eligibility threshold.

This proposal would better target free meals to children in need of assistance by allowing only schools that are individually eligible to participate in CEP. That is, if an individual school’s ISP is lower than 40 percent, it may not participate in CEP as part of a group or as part of a districtwide election.

Table FNS-13. Change in Funding Due to CEP proposal (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$19	-\$124	-\$127	-\$129	-\$132	-\$1,238

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Child Nutrition Programs

Reform Section 32 Funding

USDA proposes to de-link the Section 32 program funding from customs receipts, and route customs receipts directly to the Treasury to increase transparency. (See Agricultural Marketing Service Proposed Legislation)

Under this proposal, a portion of annual funding for Child Nutrition Programs would instead be funded directly from the Treasury, without further appropriation, for the same inflation adjusted levels and for the same purposes as previous receipt-funded activities. In addition to the usual mandatory funding previously provided from receipts, FNS would receive \$465,000,000 for CN commodity purchases, \$5,000,000 for state option contracts and \$2,500,000 for defective commodity removal.

This funding mechanism is more predictable, efficient, and transparent than the current structure.

Table FNS-14. Change in Funding Due to Section 32 proposal (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$473	+\$473	+\$473	+\$473	+\$473	+\$4,730

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND STAFF YEARS*Table FNS-15. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))*

State/Territory/Country	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Arizona.....	\$140	1	\$146	1	\$151	1	\$152	1
California	3,072	22	3,002	21	3,102	22	3,134	22
Colorado.....	3,413	24	3,307	23	3,417	24	3,452	24
District of Columbia.....	107	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida.....	279	2	288	2	298	2	301	2
Georgia.....	2,768	20	2,795	19	2,889	20	2,918	20
Illinois	2,621	19	2,605	18	2,692	19	2,719	19
Indiana	140	1	146	1	151	1	152	1
Massachusetts.....	3,175	23	3,063	21	3,165	22	3,198	22
New Jersey	2,600	19	2,386	16	2,465	17	2,490	17
New York.....	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina.....	119	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oregon	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	2,111	15	2,171	15	2,243	16	2,266	16
Virginia	80,774	146	73,495	143	74,184	150	74,402	153
Obligations ^a	101,410	294	93,403	280	94,756	294	95,185	297
Total, Available.....	101,410	294	93,403	280	94,756	294	95,185	297

^a The geographic breakdown data reports only federal administrative costs. Non-administrative costs such as grants to states and benefits are excluded.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Table FNS-16 Classification by Objects for Appropriated Funds (thousands of dollars)*

Item No.	Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$12,288	\$11,882	\$13,210	\$13,310
	Personnel Compensation, Field	14,424	13,948	15,507	15,625
11	Total personnel compensation	26,712	25,830	28,717	28,935
12	Personal benefits.....	8,119	8,310	9,069	9,137
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	34,831	34,140	37,786	38,072
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	2,048	2,945	3,004	3,064
22.0	Transportation of things.....	1	1	1	1
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	527	1,028	1,049	1,070
24.0	Printing and reproduction	830	3,810	3,886	3,964
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	38,333	43,387	44,255	45,140
26.0	Supplies and materials	1,376,047	1,344,502	1,436,458	1,472,629
31.0	Equipment	247	874	891	909
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	21,014,137	21,846,125	22,560,578	23,136,681
	Total, Other Objects	22,432,170	23,242,672	24,050,121	24,663,458
99.9	Total, new obligations	22,467,001	23,276,812	24,087,907	24,701,530
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$97,918	\$103,246	\$104,795	\$106,367
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5

Table FNS-17 Classification by Objects for Permanent Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.....	\$1,270	\$1,206	\$1,447	\$1,497
	Personnel Compensation, Field.....	1,491	1,417	1,698	1,757
11	Total personnel compensation.....	2,761	2,623	3,145	3,254
12	Personal benefits	831	800	993	1,027
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	-	16	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	3,592	3,439	4,138	4,281
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	78	79	81	82
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	4			
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	1			
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	2,972	2,941	3,000	3,060
26.0	Supplies and materials	10			
31.0	Equipment.....	12	1	1	1
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	193,359	201,163	205,186	209,290
	Total, Other Objects.....	196,436	204,184	208,268	212,433
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	200,028	207,623	212,406	216,714
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$98,551	\$102,825	\$104,367	\$105,933
	Average Grade, GS Position	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Child Nutrition Programs account provides funding for the following meal programs: National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

Program Mission

The Child Nutrition Programs improve the diets of children when they are away from home through nutritious meals and snacks based on *the Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs provide benefits in public and private elementary, middle and secondary schools, and in residential child care institutions. The Special Milk Program provides fluid milk to any participating public or non-profit private school or child care institution that does not participate in other Federally-subsidized meal programs. The Child and Adult Care Food Program provides food for the nutritional well-being of young children and adults in day care homes and non-residential centers, and for children and teenagers in at-risk afterschool care programs and in emergency shelters. The Summer Food Service Program provides nutritious meals to children in low-income areas and in residential camps during the summer months, and at other times when school is not in session. In participating elementary schools, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides fresh fruits and vegetables outside of the regular meal service to all students. These programs are administered in most States by the State education agency, and in some States, by the State agriculture or health agencies

The Child Nutrition Programs were reauthorized by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA, P.L. 111-296) on December 13, 2010. The HHFKA amended the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (CNA) in the areas of program access, improved school meals, healthy school nutrition environments, and integrity. While the HHFKA extension technically expired at the end of FY 2015, most Child Nutrition Programs and provisions have continued operating via annual appropriations.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Program Mission

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides funds to States for lunches served to students during lunch periods at school and for snacks served to children participating in after school care programs. The lunches must be consistent with statutory and regulatory nutrition standards, which are based on the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

States are generally reimbursed on the basis of the number of qualifying lunches and snacks served to children in participating schools at designated reimbursement rates. These reimbursement rates are adjusted annually, and reflect three categories: free, reduced, or paid meals. In accordance with Section 17A of the NSLA, reimbursement for snacks served by schools in needy areas is paid at the free snack rate.

Section 4 of the NSLA authorizes a base reimbursement for all qualifying meals served, including lunches to children whose family income is above 185 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines. In addition, Section 11 of the NSLA authorizes additional reimbursement for meals served to children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level (these children qualify for free meals), and for those from families with incomes between 130 and 185 percent (they qualify for reduced price meals). For school year (SY) 2018-2019, a child from a family of four with an annual income of \$32,630 or less is eligible for free meals, and a child from a family of four with a family income of no more than \$46,435 is eligible for reduced price meals. The reimbursement rates for meals are revised on July 1 of each year. The cash reimbursement for a free or reduced price lunch is the sum of Section 4 (base) and Section 11 (supplemental) reimbursement rates. School food authorities (SFAs) that served 60 percent or more free and reduced price lunches during the second preceding school year receive increased assistance at the rate of 2 cents per meal served. SFAs that demonstrated the meals offered met the updated nutrition standards received an additional 6 cents per lunch served. In addition to the cash reimbursements, Section 6 of the NSLA also provides base funding for the purchase of USDA Foods to be used in the meal service, based on lunches served in the previous year.

Facts in Brief

On an average school day in FY 2018, more than half of all school children in America were provided an NSLP lunch. At participating schools and Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs), approximately 57.69 percent of the enrolled students participated in the NSLP on a daily basis in FY 2018; this is a slight decrease from 58.13 percent in FY 2017.

- In FY 2018, more than 4.85 billion lunches were served in the NSLP, a decrease of 40 million from FY 2017. Average daily participation in 2018 was 29.7 million, a slight decrease from 30.0 million in FY 2017.
- In FY 2018, approximately 74.3 percent of total lunches served were provided free or at a reduced price, up from 73.4 percent in FY 2017.
- A total of 97,788 schools and RCCIs participated in the NSLP in FY 2018, compared to 98,596 in FY 2017 (699 fewer schools and 337 fewer RCCIs).

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Program Mission

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) provides funds to States for qualifying breakfasts served to students at or close to the beginning of their day at school. Like school lunches, the breakfasts must be consistent with statutory and regulatory nutrition standards, which are based on the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. The SBP is available to the same schools and institutions that are eligible to participate in the NSLP.

For each eligible breakfast served, schools are reimbursed at established rates for free, reduced price, and paid meals. Schools in which 40 percent of lunches served to students during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price receive higher “severe need” reimbursements for breakfasts served free or at a reduced price. The meal reimbursement rates are revised on July 1 of each year.

Children from families that meet the NSLP income eligibility guidelines also qualify for free or reduced price breakfasts. The income eligibility guidelines for the NSLP and SBP are the same.

The availability of different service methods, such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab-and-Go kiosk, and Breakfast in the Bus, is contributing to the nationwide expansion of the SBP, more flexibility at the local level, and better customer service.

Facts in Brief

- In FY 2018, the School Breakfast Program was available at 91,003 schools and institutions (a decrease of 0.51 percent from FY 2017) with an enrollment of 48.72 million students (an increase of 51,465 from FY 2017).
- Average daily participation in FY 2017 was 14.7 million students, about the same as the prior year. The program was available to 94.6 percent of the students enrolled in schools participating in the lunch program in FY 2018, as compared to 50 percent in FY 1990.
- The proportion of total meals served free or at a reduced price was about 85.3 percent during FY 2018, an increase of 1 percent from FY 2017. Approximately 2.4 billion school breakfasts were served in FY 2018, about the same as FY 2017.

FNS continues to partner with State agencies to support best practices in implementing effective school breakfast programs that ensure low-income children have access to nutritious breakfasts to support learning during the school day.

Improving the Nutrition Environment in Schools

Meal Requirements and Flexibilities

By law, USDA was required to update the meal patterns and nutrition standards for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to align them with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Beginning in SY 2012-2013, schools participating in the lunch and breakfast programs began to offer healthier meals with more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lower fat milk.

In order to help schools meet the requirements, USDA provides an extra six cent reimbursement per lunch for schools certifying compliance with the standards. In addition, USDA works in partnership with the State agencies and school food authorities (SFAs) to address operational challenges and provide additional flexibility. For example, since SY 2014-2015, State agencies have been granting exemptions from the whole grain-rich requirement to SFAs facing significant difficulty offering whole grain-rich products (50 percent whole grains and the rest of the grain content enriched). On November 30, 2017, USDA codified this flexibility by publishing “Child Nutrition Program Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements.” This interim final rule extended three menu planning flexibilities for Child Nutrition Program operators for SY 2018-2019. These flexibilities include:

- Extending the State agencies’ option to allow individual school food authorities to include grains that are not whole grain rich in the weekly menu offered under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP);
- Providing operators the option to offer flavored, low-fat (1 percent fat) milk in the Child Nutrition Programs; and
- Retaining Sodium Target 1 in the NSLP and SBP.

On December 12, 2018, USDA published a final rule “Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements.” The final rule increases flexibility in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program meal requirements related to milk, grains, and sodium effective School Year 2019-2020, which begins July 1, 2019. It codifies, with some modifications, three menu planning flexibilities established by the interim final rule. These flexibilities in meal pattern requirements affirm USDA’s commitment to giving schools more control over food service decisions and greater ability to offer wholesome, nutritious, and appealing meals to children that reflect local preferences and reduce plate waste.

USDA also provides other financial and technical assistance support, including the Team Up for School Nutrition Success initiative and the Team Nutrition grants. Furthermore, USDA is actively engaged with State agencies, with a strong focus on providing training and technical assistance for SFAs to operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs efficiently and effectively.

Team Up for School Nutrition Success (Team Up) is a FNS initiative, in collaboration with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN), that provides tailored technical assistance to school food authorities across the country via workshops and peer-to-peer mentoring to assist schools with meeting the meal pattern requirements, enhancing the food operations, and maintaining a healthy meals program. These workshops have equipped thousands of program operators with essential job skills such as increasing program participation, financial management, human resources management, leadership, menu-planning, reducing plate waste, maintaining food safety, and handling special food and nutrition needs. Nearly a dozen national allied organizations offered support of *Team Up* efforts, participating on *Team Up* resource panels and State agencies have leveraged their own partnerships and included organizations that will enhance the learning and resource needs of their State’s participants and mentors. In FY 2015, FY 2016, and FY 2017, between the in-person trainings and webinars, the *Team Up* initiative reached nearly 16,000 school nutrition professionals across the 50 States, DC, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Team Nutrition

The Team Nutrition initiative supports the Child Nutrition Programs by: 1) providing job skills training and technical assistance to food service staff who prepare meals for the programs; 2) developing nutrition education resources that help children learn about agriculture and become self-sufficient in making informed food choices; and 3) providing the programs with resources to support healthy school and child care environments. The Team Nutrition initiative helps States and local program operators apply meal pattern requirements to their school and child care menus, while accommodating local and regional food preferences and optimizing the use of USDA Foods as well as locally produced foods. The turnover among food service and child care staff remains high, so there is a continuous need for job skills training which also contributes to staff meeting the professional standards requirements. Team Nutrition distributed over 1 million copies of evidence-based training and nutrition education materials to child nutrition program operators which is a testament to the demand for these high quality materials.

Grants Team Nutrition provides grants to State agencies to expand and enhance statewide sustainable infrastructure and training systems to assist local agencies in implementing USDA’s nutrition requirements and support healthy environments for the nation’s youth. In FY 2017, 11 States received a 3-year 2017 Team Nutrition Training Grant of up to \$500,000 for a total of \$5.4 million. These grants are being used by States to create jobs for local school wellness coordinators and culinary trainers and to provide job skills training to food service staff to help them prepare wholesome meals that children want to eat. Many States provide sub-grants directly to school food authorities and CACFP sponsoring organizations, which use the funds to support local training efforts and nutrition education. Grants awarded to States in FY 2016 are nearing completion of their grant cycles and have shown positive gains in student selection and consumption of vegetables, student perceptions of school meals, and staff knowledge of culinary skills and food presentation techniques.

Materials Team Nutrition responds to needs for additional training and educational resources as identified by the release of new regulations and policy guidance and areas of concerns identified by States and FNS Regional Offices during Administrative Reviews, and information provided in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

In FY 2018, Team Nutrition released a foundational resource for school nutrition professionals, The Menu Planner for Schools Meals: School Year 2018-2019. This resource provides meal planning guidance and helps schools put the Dietary Guidelines for Americans into practice when planning, preparing, providing, and marketing great-tasting, nutritious, and safe meals that meet the Federal meal pattern requirements. Since its September 2018 release, the Menu Planner resource has been viewed nearly 28,000 times on the Team Nutrition Web site.

Also in FY 2018, Team Nutrition released additional resources to further equip child nutrition program operators in implementing Federal policy, support children’s consumption of healthy school meals and snacks, including: A Guide to Smart Snacks in School (updated for School Year 2018-2019); Discover MyPlate Emergent Readers in Spanish; and Team Nutrition Cooks!, a series of cooking-based nutrition activities for out-of-school and afterschool programs, for children around ages 8 to 12 years old.

In total, FNS provided 359 online resources and 93 printed publications to States, schools and CACFP operators during FY 2018. The most commonly downloaded Team Nutrition publication was the Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools with over 14,000 downloads. Almost 640,000 printed training and nutrition education materials were requested by and distributed to State agencies, schools, school districts, and CACFP operators during FY 2018. The most commonly requested printed resources and training tools include The Two Bite Club (133,000 copies) and Eat Smart to Play Hard Poster (48,000 copies). Team Nutrition also responded to over 5,000 emails from program operators and the public about Team Nutrition materials, technical assistance for program operations, and training opportunities.

Technology Tools In FY 2018, Team Nutrition made USDA history by releasing the first-ever FNS public-facing Mobile Application, the Food Buying Guide (FBG) mobile app, which has had over 8,000 downloads in the first 9 months since its release. The app assists program operators and food manufacturers in purchasing the right quantity of food for their meals programs, comparing foods, and determining the specific contribution each food item makes towards Child Nutrition Program meal pattern requirements. This mobile app, together with the web-based Interactive Food Buying Guide, have provided child nutrition program operators with invaluable information – at their fingertips – related to food purchasing and utilizing food yield information for menu planning.

Web Site Team Nutrition maintains a Professional Standards Training Database with over 500 free or low-cost trainings available to help school nutrition professionals boost their essential job-related skills and knowledge related to program operations, program administration, nutrition, and communications and marketing. In addition, Team Nutrition facilitates sharing of State-developed menu planning and culinary training resources and best practices through the Healthy Meals Resource System web site.

Institute for Child Nutrition Training: FNS, in cooperation with the ICN, provides training on the use of Team Nutrition materials to local program operators at State agency and Child Nutrition Program association meetings. In addition, trainings and hands-on technical assistance have equipped Child Nutrition program administrators and operators with essential job skills such as increasing program participation, menu planning, procurement of goods and services, financial management, leadership, and culinary skills. Current training efforts emphasize the implementation of the updated meal patterns, tailored technical assistance to enhance school food operations, as well as school program management for school nutrition program directors. More than 50 online training courses are available on ICN’s eLearning Portal website at www.theicn.org, thereby providing child nutrition program administrators and operators access to online learning on a variety of topics, anytime, anywhere. These online courses include Nutrition 101, Food Safety in Schools, Culinary Techniques Series, Inventory Management, and more, as well as procurement training for State agency personnel. In FY 2018, nearly 24,000 child nutrition program administrators and operators attended more than 370 job skills trainings in a variety of formats and topics, thereby supporting operators’ efforts in managing program operations and implementing the meal patterns.

Additional Tools and Technical Assistance: Increased emphasis has been placed on providing tools to help schools improve their programs through technology, such as a Food Buying Guide calculator, webinars, and online courses. In addition, ICN has a toll-free help desk that provides technical assistance and information to school food service personnel with questions about menu planning, nutrient requirements, food purchasing, nutrient analysis and additional child nutrition topics. USDA Recipes for Schools, Recipes for Healthy Kids, and USDA Recipes for Child Care are available on the ICN website at <http://www.theicn.org> under School Nutrition Programs. ICN also collects, preserves, and hosts the Child Nutrition Archives, which contain collections of archived materials and oral histories.

Smart Snacks in Schools

In addition, as required by law, USDA has established nutrition standards for all foods sold during the school day to ensure they are consistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans. These standards are intended to improve the nutritional quality of competitive foods available in schools and complement the efforts of parents to promote healthy choices at home and at school, reinforce school-based nutrition education and promotion efforts, and contribute to the overall effectiveness of the school nutrition environment in promoting healthful food and physical activity choices.

The standards for competitive foods and beverages represent minimum standards for local educational agencies, school food authorities, and schools. However, State agencies and/or local school districts have the discretion to establish additional local standards for non-program foods sold to children. State agencies also have the flexibility to establish policies that exempt local fundraisers from these nutrition standards.

These standards went into effect for SY 2014, through an interim final rule. A final rule was published on July 29, 2016, titled “National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School as required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.” The final rule maintained as interim the standard on total fat and requested comments on this standard. FNS has not yet made a final determination on this standard.

Improving School Meal Program Integrity

Ensuring the integrity of the school meal programs by minimizing improper payments and other errors is a key priority for FNS. As stewards of the Federal funds that support these programs, the agency has a responsibility to maintain the public’s trust while guaranteeing that program benefits are available to the eligible households who rely on them.

FNS’ efforts to enhance program integrity in the school meal programs fall under three categories: research, process improvements, and monitoring/compliance.

Research

FNS released its latest study on improper payments in the school meal programs in May 2015. The *Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification Study II* (APEC-II) offers a rigorous examination of program error in the process of certifying children for free or reduced-price meal benefits, as well as in the process of identifying and claiming meals for Federal reimbursement. These findings have continued to motivate integrity work throughout the agency in FY 2018.

APEC-II identifies applicant error in the certification process as one of the key sources of improper payments. In response to this finding, USDA is using multiple avenues to improve applicants’ understanding of the forms, and using behavioral science techniques to improve accuracy when completing applications. In 2016, FNS reached agreement with the United States Census Bureau for a cognitive testing study to better understand the underlying causes of household misreporting on free and reduced price meal applications. The testing, which included FNS prototype application designs as well as formats developed by State and local agencies, occurred in 2017 and produced a series of recommendations and findings, which were in turn considered by an applications working group responsible for making revisions to the existing FNS prototype designs. An application incorporating these revisions is slated to be released in 2019. A separate working group will explore additional application designs for the purpose of identifying new features and elements that encourage accurate household income reporting.

Looking ahead, FNS and its contractor completed data collection for the *Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification Study III* (APEC-III) in 2018, with initial findings expected in 2019. APEC-III builds upon the methodologies employed by APEC-II, and will provide updated, nationally-representative estimates of program errors and improper payments in the school meal programs. The project will also seek to develop State-specific error rates for the largest States and groups of smaller States, and explore means to update error estimates with more frequent and limited indicator data.

Process Improvements

In March 2018, FNS released a new policy memo, *Reducing School Meal Certification Error through Improved Online Application Design*. This memo reflects and promotes the integrity priorities of FNS’ first web-based prototype application for free and reduced price school meals, released in November 2016. Among the features highlighted in the memo are a detailed, ‘Turbo Tax’ style household income survey, integrated tooltip help, and up-front attestation that information provided on the application is true and correct. FNS further promoted the

incorporation of these key integrity features into web-based applications through webinar and conference presentations, as well as through grant funding opportunities.

FNS tested a series of strategies aimed at reducing non-response in the free and reduced price school meal application verification process, and utilized the numerous insights, observations, and results from these projects to develop a collection of new policy documents and guidance materials. These documents, organized collectively into a ‘Verification Non-response Toolkit,’ were designed as a resource geared towards local level program operators. The purpose of the toolkit is to provide relevant and customer-oriented guidance on reducing verification non-response, while encouraging wider adoption of practices with demonstrated value. The toolkit includes revised household communications and detailed guidance on recommended verification outreach strategies, such as beginning the verification process earlier than October 1, which is currently the norm for most school districts. Benefits of this approach include evidence of higher household response rates, reduced administrative burden, and less concentrated workload, and shorter ‘lag time’ between when a household submits an application and when they are selected for verification. Participating districts reported such success with the pilot that four of the five repeated their use of rolling verification during the SY 2017-2018. The Verification Non-Response Toolkit was released in early FY 2018.

FNS also pursued development of a new process to improve the quality of data collected on the FNS-742, the Verification Collection Report. This project is a collaboration with the General Services Administration’s 18F group, an office tasked with improving the business of government through technology-based solutions. The FNS-742 produces SFA-level records that are among the agency’s most granular available administrative data. This collection has been indispensable to many internal and external analysis projects, including those aimed at identifying program integrity risks. The dataset also regularly serves to inform technical assistance requests from Congress.

In 2018, FNS formalized an agreement with 18F to create a cloud-based ‘Data Validation Service’ that will introduce a series of edit checks into the FNS-742 data entry process at an early stage. Currently, States collect FNS-742 data from SFAs prior to aggregating those records and submitting them to FNS via the Food Program Reporting System (FPRS). FPRS incorporates a series of edit checks, and submitted data is further reviewed by FNS officials; however, these data quality measures are introduced at the end of the collection process. As such, data quality issues are detected weeks and sometimes months after an initial error occurred. The new Data Validation Service will instead interact directly with the State-sponsored systems used for initial data entry, allowing edit checks to be applied almost immediately, and providing SFAs with relevant feedback at a time when errors are much easier to identify and correct. The Data Validation Service accomplishes multiple important goals: 1) it enhances customer service to States and SFAs by helping to streamline the data collection process and reducing burden associated with correcting errors; and 2) the service also directly improves the quality of a dataset which FNS relies on to inform its policymaking, guidance, and program integrity efforts. The project is also expected to be highly cost efficient; funding for its development is being furnished through a competitive award from 18F.

FNS is pursuing a number of other integrity efforts, such as development of a voluntary, self-administered testing protocol to assist software vendors in evaluating the functionality of their web-based applications for school meals. This case-based testing approach will allow software vendors and their customers to better ensure that web-based applications render correct household eligibility determinations. The agency is also engaged in a collaborative effort with seven other Federal agencies and headed by a non-profit organization to develop a public challenge competition aimed at identifying new ideas to validate applicant eligibility for means-tested assistance programs. This effort was launched in 2018, with expected completion in 2019.

Program Oversight

FNS and State agencies conduct reviews to assess the operation of the school meal programs, evaluate the accuracy of local meal service data, and provide training and technical assistance to help ensure local program accountability. Funds allocated for these reviews support the identification of errors that result in improper claims and the development of corrective action plans, which assist SFAs in identifying needed improvements. Ultimately, the corrective action plans result in more accurate and efficient distribution of program benefits to eligible children.

As required by statute, FNS developed a unified accountability system for State agency oversight of the School Meal Programs, referred to as the Administrative Review (AR). Through the AR, State agencies conduct comprehensive evaluations of SFAs participating in NSLP, SBP, and other Federal meal programs. The AR

provides for a robust review of program operations. FNS provides forms, instructions, and guidance to State agencies in order to standardize the review process.

Regulations require State agencies to recover Federal funds for errors related to certification and benefit issuance, as well as meal pattern and nutritional quality requirements. Regulations also allow State agencies to recover Federal funds or withhold payments for other areas of noncompliance in program operation. The AR generates valuable information at the State and Federal levels, which informs technical assistance and the development of initiatives to improve integrity across the programs.

FNS provides technical assistance on Program regulations and guidance to State agencies in a variety of formats such as the development of guidance and handbooks, fact sheets, webinars, conference calls, and in person trainings and presentations. FNS also provides technical assistance through the review process through assisted administrative and procurement reviews, and during management evaluations. For example, FNS continues to make significant efforts to strengthen implementation and oversight of the Buy American procurement requirements in school meals programs and has issued policy guidance and conducted numerous trainings on State agency oversight of procurement to ensure SFAs have the tools and knowledge to comply with procurement standards in the program and government-wide regulations.

Through competitive grants to States administering the Child Nutrition Programs, FNS provides funding for States implementing technology improvements that demonstrate an ability to decrease administrative and operational errors, and improve program integrity. Since 2011, FNS has convened a workgroup made up for State agencies and FNS representatives to assist in identifying State agency technical assistance needs related to technology systems and software used to operate and manage the Child Nutrition Programs. Based on identified needs from this workgroup, FNS holds a national training event for State agencies administering the Child Nutrition Programs which aims to build State agency capacity in project management, system and software procurement and contract management, system development lifecycle management, and other aspects of system and software development and maintenance to support State program and technical staff in improving Child Nutrition Program access and integrity.

Direct Certification

Direct certification is the process of matching data from other means-tested programs to automatically certify students for school meal benefits, without need for families to submit applications. Direct Certification is a key error-reduction strategy for the school meals programs; a recent USDA study shows that eligibility determinations based on direct certification are more accurate than those based on the household application process. By eliminating applications, direct certification not only reduces program errors, but also reduces burden on families and schools. State agencies were required to reach direct certification with SNAP rates of 95 percent by SY 2013-2014, and must continue to meet the 95 percent benchmark in subsequent years to maximize program efficiency. States that do not reach the direct certification benchmarks are required to develop and implement continuous improvement plans to ensure that eligible children are directly certified for school meals. The “National School Lunch Program: Direct Certification Continuous Improvement Plans Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” final rule was published on February 22, 2013.

For SY 2015-2016, 28 of the 52 State agencies achieved direct certification rates at or above the 95-percent performance target, and the National SNAP-DC rate increased to 92 percent. FNS is continuing robust technical assistance efforts with State agencies to help them improve their direct certification performance. In FY 2018, the technical assistance team conducted ten intensive State agency site visits.

To support states’ direct certification efforts, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-80) provided funding for grants to State agencies that administer the NSLP. FNS has awarded 55 Direct Certification grants to States to support direct certification process improvements totaling approximately \$25 million.

Demonstrations to Evaluate Direct Certification with Medicaid Data

Section 9(b) (15) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, authorizes FNS to conduct demonstration projects in selected States and Local Education Authorities (LEA) to evaluate the effectiveness of using Medicaid data to directly certify students for school meals. The original demonstrations were implemented in seven states--California, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 provided \$5 million in funds to study and evaluate the projects, and a rigorous

evaluation provided evidence that direct certification using Medicaid data has the potential for reducing error and increasing efficiency in school meals administration.

Based on these findings, USDA decided to examine the potential additional efficiencies of directly certifying students for both free and reduced-price meals. Seven States began demonstrations in SY 2016-2017, and eight additional States began demonstrations approved in SY 2017-2018. An evaluation is underway to examine the impact of direct certification with Medicaid on key program outcomes.

Special Provision Options

In an effort to reduce paperwork and other administrative burdens at the local level, Congress has incorporated into Section 11(a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1759a) alternative Provisions to the traditional requirements for annual determinations of eligibility for free and reduced price school meals and daily meal counts by type. These alternatives are commonly referred to as Provision 1, Provision 2, Provision 3, and the Community Eligibility Provision. Congressionally authorized Special Provisions have been an option for SFAs since 1980. Provisions 1, 2, and 3 as well as the Community Eligibility Provision were enacted to decrease the administrative and household burden resulting from completing and processing school meal applications for districts and schools with high portions of students eligible for free and reduced priced meals.

Provisions 1, 2, and 3

Provision 1 reduces application burdens by allowing free eligibility to be certified for a 2-year period in schools where at least 80 percent of the children enrolled are eligible for free or reduced price meals. All other households must be provided a meal application to apply for meal benefits each school year. There is no requirement to offer meals at no charge to all students.

Provision 2 establishes claiming percentages and offers meals to all participating children at no charge for a period of 4 years. During the first year, or base year, the school makes eligibility determinations and takes meal counts by type. During the next 3 years, the school makes no new eligibility determinations and counts only the total number of reimbursable meals served each day. Reimbursement during these years is determined by applying the percentages of free, reduced price and paid meals served during the corresponding month of the base year to the total meal count for the claiming month.

Provision 3 allows schools to receive the level of Federal cash and commodity support paid to them for the last year in which they made eligibility determinations and meal counts by type, this is the base year. Schools serve meals to all participating children at no charge for a period of 4 years. These schools do not make additional eligibility determinations and reimbursement is determined by the base year with some adjustments to reflect changes in enrollment and inflation. Schools electing provision 2 or 3 must pay the difference between Federal reimbursement and the cost of providing all meals at no charge. The money to pay for this difference must be from sources other than Federal funds. Also, Provision 2 and 3 allow the State agency to approve 4-year extensions if the income level of the school's population remains stable.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Schools and districts in low income areas may elect to use CEP, a Federal-local partnership unique to school meals. CEP streamlines program administration by using Direct Certification data for student certification. Schools access income data already collected and verified through other Federal assistance programs and apply it to the school meals certification process, rather than duplicating data collection efforts. If a minimum percentage of students qualify, the Local Education Agency (LEA) conducts its own cost-benefit analysis. Using an established equation, the LEA calculates the amount of federal reimbursement it will receive and the level of local funds required to offer no-cost meals to all enrolled students. The LEA weighs its funding contribution in comparison to anticipated savings through administrative cost and burden reductions. If it determines that CEP is more efficient than the traditional NSLP administrative structure specific to its local circumstances, the LEA can choose to move to CEP. CEP schools must pay the difference between Federal reimbursement and the cost of providing all meals at no charge. The money to pay for this difference must be from sources other than Federal funds. As of May 2017, 20,614 schools serving 9.3 million students have adopted the CEP structure. This number represents 61.63 percent of 33,446 eligible schools. CEP has widespread support from State and local Program operators and stakeholders.

In FY 2018, FNS has continued to work with State partners to provide focused technical assistance to ensure schools participating and interested in participating in CEP have the information and resources necessary to make informed decisions about participation. Technical assistance includes conference calls with State directors and other

administrative staff, connecting LEAs with peers from other districts who have overcome similar situations and webinars on focused topic areas.

FNS expects CEP participation to slow or plateau. Since CEP became available nationwide in SY 2014-2015, most highly eligible school districts have already successfully adopted CEP in some or all of their schools. However, additional districts may elect to participate as their direct certification systems improve. Districts that have partially implemented CEP (i.e., in some, but not all, eligible schools) may also expand participation if CEP is operationally advantageous. Modest increases in participation may be offset by schools opting to discontinue CEP participation as their four-year cycle end. This could be due to a decreased poverty rate in a community, which could decrease the financial viability of CEP or make a district ineligible for CEP participation.

A national evaluation of CEP is currently underway. Data was collected in SY 2016-17. This study examines characteristics of participating and non-participating schools. The study will also assess how CEP impacts student participation, revenue, attendance, and the type of breakfast program offered by the school. The study results will help FNS apply the best principles of continuous improvement, through identifying the strengths and weakness of CEP to help LEAs make determinations about CEP for their specific circumstances. FNS expects the study results to be available in early 2019.

Professional Standards for School Food Service Administrators

As required by Section 7 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, the State agency and school food service personnel who manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs must meet professional standards to ensure that these programs operate effectively and efficiently and deliver healthful meals to millions of school children. The professional standards regulations established on July 1, 2015, include hiring standards for the selection of State and local school nutrition program directors, and require all personnel in the school nutrition programs to complete annual training.

Since implementation of the professional standards regulations in 2015, FNS has received multiple inquiries from State agencies on behalf of school food authorities (SFAs) that are facing challenges with the hiring standards applicable to small local educational agencies (LEAs) with 2,499 students or less. SFAs operating in small LEAs, particularly those in rural or less populated areas, often struggle to find applicants with the required school nutrition program experience. To assist small these SFAs, USDA published on March 6, 2018, the *Proposed Rule: Hiring Flexibility Under Professional Standards*. A final rule is expected to be published in FY 2019.

Community Food Systems

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) supports local and regional food systems as a way to build community, increase jobs, enhance economic opportunities, and strengthen American agriculture. In October 2015, FNS formally created the Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS) within FNS' Child Nutrition Programs. This office represents an expansion of ongoing Child Nutrition activities in accordance with directives in Section 9(j) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, to increase access to local foods through the Child Nutrition Programs, and to strengthen local and regional food systems that support community health and well-being, along with economic opportunities for producers. The establishment of OCFS allows CN to extend its current focus on local foods beyond the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and its associated programs to include both the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and embed this approach in on-going programmatic activities throughout all CN divisions as appropriate. The integration of community food systems principles in Child Nutrition Programs encourages local control and flexibility, offering program operators opportunities to support economic development and producers in their communities.

As required by statute, FNS awarded grants, provided technical assistance, and conducted research related to Farm to School in FY 2018.

Grants

The Farm to School Grant Program funds school districts, state and local agencies, tribal communities, agricultural producers, and non-profit organizations to support efforts that increase local foods served through the Child Nutrition Programs, teach children about food and agriculture through garden and classroom education, and develop schools' and farmers' capacities to participate in Farm to School programs. Awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000 are distributed in three different grant categories: Planning, Implementation, and Training.

FY 2018 marks six years since the inception of the Farm to School Grant Program. Since then, FNS has awarded 437 projects totaling approximately \$30 million and reaching all 50 states, DC, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and

Guam. In June 2018, FNS awarded more than \$5 million in grants to 73 grantees. In September 2018, FNS held a Grantee Gathering meeting with over 115 attendees, including grantees and producers, to review grant requirements, present best practices from grantees, and allow for networking and sharing.

In October 2018, FNS also published a new grantee report titled *Cultivating Opportunity: an Overview of USDA's Fiscal Year 2015 and 2016 Farm to School Grantees' Growing Achievements*. The report highlights trends and best practices implemented by FY 2015 and 2016 farm to school grantees, and why Farm to School is good for producers, kids, schools and communities.

Technical Assistance

FNS provides extensive training and technical assistance to program operators through in-person meetings, webinars, conference calls, and through online and print technical assistance materials. In FY 2018, FNS conducted over 57 trainings at meetings and conferences on the topics of local procurement, grants, school gardens, micro purchasing, geographic preference and other topics related to Farm to School, and presented at several national meetings. In collaboration with the FNS Office of Food Safety, OCFS developed two fact sheets on food safety to help schools procure, safe local food for use in school meals which will be published in FY 2019.

FNS also works to link local food to Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and summer feeding programs. Forty-two states included community food systems information in summer and CACFP sponsor trainings and 37 State agencies integrated farm to summer activities in their management and administration plans.

FNS also manages an electronic newsletter, *The Dirt*, which boasts a subscriber base of over 40,000. Subscriptions grew nearly 33 percent from FY 2017, and 25 issues of the newsletter were sent in FY 2018.

Research

In FY 2018, FNS continued efforts to gather a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of the current scope of Farm to School implementation nationwide. This includes an updated survey tool for the FY 2019 Farm to School Census that has been tested and is expected to be approved for use for the FY 2019 Farm to School Census starting in February 2019. A new survey was also developed to determine how many major food distributors across the nation are sourcing food from local producers. Lastly, FNS revised the reporting requirements for Farm to School grantees in order to streamline the collection, aggregation and analysis of grantee data. With assistance from an evaluation contractor, FNS is reviewing all available grantee data from FY 2013 through FY 2018, to identify important trends and activities among Farm to School Grant recipients.

SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Special Milk Program (SMP) has encouraged consumption of fluid milk since 1955. Any public or non-profit private school or child care institution may participate in the SMP, provided it does not participate in other Federal meal programs, such as NSLP, SBP, or CACFP. However, schools participating in the NSLP or SBP may also participate in the SMP to provide milk to children in half-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs where these children would not otherwise have access to the School Meal Programs. Participating schools and child care institutions are reimbursed for part of the cost of milk served to children.

Facts in Brief

- The number of half pints served as part of the SMP decreased from 41 million in FY 2017 to 38 million in FY 2018, a 7 percent decrease. Overall, the number of half pints served has decreased from 181.3 million in FY 1990, down 79 percent.
- A total of 3,281 schools, residential child care institutions, non-residential child care institutions, and summer camps participated in the SMP in FY 2018, a 4.7 percent decrease from the FY 2017 level of 3,445.
- The portion of half pints served free during FY 2018 was about 9.9 percent, as compared to 9.7 percent in FY 2017.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides aid to child and adult care institutions and family or group day care homes for the provision of nutritious foods that contribute to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children, and the health and wellness of older adults and chronically impaired disabled persons.

In order to participate, child care centers must be either public or private non-profit or for-profit centers in which at least 25 percent of their enrollment or licensed capacity receive Title XX funds or are eligible for free or reduced price school meals. Adult day care centers that provide nonresidential adult day care must be either public or private non-profit or for-profit centers in which at least 25 percent of their participants are eligible for free or reduced price meals or are receiving Title XIX or Title XX funds. All participating providers must be licensed or approved according to Federal, State or local standards. Outside-school-hours care programs and at-risk afterschool centers in areas where Federal, State, or local licensing or approval is not required may participate in CACFP by meeting State or local health and safety standards. Funds are made available to the States for audit expenses associated with the administration of the CACFP.

Centers, with the exception of at-risk centers and emergency shelters, receive reimbursements based on a free, reduced price, or paid meal rate for each eligible meal type they serve (CACFP facilities may serve breakfasts, lunches, snacks and/or suppers). Centers receive applications from parents or adult participants and make eligibility determinations based on family size and income, essentially following the same guidelines used in the NSLP. Family or group day care homes receive reimbursement under a two-tier system intended to target program funds to support low-income children, while requiring less paperwork than would be necessary if the NSLP guidelines were used. Under this system, a higher reimbursement rate is paid to day care homes located in areas where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced price meals or where the provider's household size and income meet the established income criteria for free or reduced price meals. The higher rate of reimbursement may also be paid to providers whose households receive SNAP benefits. All other homes receive reimbursement at a lower rate, except where individual children who are enrolled for care in the home are determined to be eligible for the higher meal rate.

The at-risk afterschool meals component of CACFP offers Federal funding to programs that: operate in low-income areas afterschool or on weekends, holidays, or vacations during the regular school year; provide an organized, regularly-scheduled activity; and serve a meal and/or snack to participating children and teens. Although reimbursement for at-risk afterschool snacks has been available since the 1990s, reimbursement for meals was previously available to only 13 States and the District of Columbia. By law, the option to serve at-risk afterschool meals was expanded to all States and the District of Columbia participating in CACFP, beginning in FY 2011. Additionally, FNS has issued guidance to streamline participation in at-risk afterschool meals for school food authorities and for sponsors already participating in the Summer Food Service Program.

Facts in Brief

- In FY 2018, the peak participation attendance in CACFP was approximately 5.2 million children and adults, an increase from the peak participation of 5.0 million in FY 2017.
- Of 4.31 million children in average daily attendance in FY 2018, approximately 3.6 million were in child care centers and approximately 0.71 million were in family day care homes, a slight decrease from 4.3 million children in average daily attendance, of which 3.5 million were in centers and 0.75 million were in family day care homes in FY 2017.
- On average, in FY 2018, CACFP child care centers had 57 children in attendance each day, and received about \$39,109 a year in meal reimbursement (compared to an average of 56 children and \$37,744 in FY 2017).
- On average, a family day care home cared for and fed approximately seven children daily in FY 2018, and received slightly more than \$7,139 a year in meal reimbursement (compared to approximately 7 children and slightly more than \$7,059 in FY 2017).
- Total meal service decreased .1 percent from FY 2017 to FY 2018, for a total of approximately 2.04 billion meals served in FY 2018.
- In FY 2018, approximately 80.7 percent of total meals served in CACFP were provided free or at a reduced price, a little less than the 80.9 percent in FY 2017.
- In FY 2018, 25,620 At-Risk Child Care Center outlets provided a total of 251.56 million meals and snacks to children (compared to the 23,553 At-Risk Child Care Centers operating in FY 2017 that served a total of 231.32 million meals and snacks). This is an 8.8 percent increase in the number of operating At-Risk sites and an 8.7 percent increase in the number of meals and snacks served to children.
- In FY 2018, CACFP At-Risk Child Care Centers had an average of 78 children daily, an increase from approximately 72 children in attendance daily during FY 2017.

Improving Nutrition

FNS has been working towards requiring meals and snacks served in the CACFP to better reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, as required by law. Enhancing the nutritional quality of the CACFP meals will help children build healthy habits for life and improve the wellness of adult participants. In promulgating rulemaking, FNS relied on the recommendations from the National Academy of Medicine, the 2010 and 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and input from stakeholders.

In April 2016, FNS published a final rule, *Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010*, to update the CACFP nutrition standards. The updated standards went into effect on October 1, 2017; however, FNS required a transition year where program operators making a good faith effort to follow the updated meal patterns would receive technical assistance in lieu of fiscal action if they fell short of certain meal pattern requirements.

Under the updated standards, meals and snacks served include a greater variety of vegetables and fruit, more whole grains, and less added sugar and saturated fat. In addition, the standards improve access to healthy beverages, encourage breastfeeding, and better align the CACFP with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and with other Child Nutrition Programs.

The new standards were carefully designed to make achievable and cost-neutral improvements to the nutritional quality of the meals and snacks served in CACFP. FNS focused on incremental changes that balance the science behind the diverse nutritional needs of CACFP participants with the practical abilities of participating centers and day care homes to implement these changes.

FNS is committed to providing guidance, resources, best practices, and training for CACFP centers and day care homes to support them in providing healthy, balanced meals and snacks to the children and adults they serve. In FY 2018, FNS provided technical assistance to State agencies, sponsoring organizations, centers, and day care homes by hosting in-person trainings and issuing various educational resources and policy guidance. FNS issued policy memoranda as needed to help clarify the updated meal pattern requirements, answer questions frequently asked by stakeholders, and provide some flexibilities helpful to program operators.

In response to stakeholder feedback, the policy memoranda on grains requirements was updated for clarity and enhanced flexibility, the policy memoranda on infant feeding was updated for clarity, and a policy memoranda was released to update the status of meal pattern flexibilities (e.g., milk) across Child Nutrition Programs.

Team Nutrition Materials and Training for CACFP

Team Nutrition responds to needs for additional training and educational resources as identified by the release of new regulations and policy guidance and areas of concerns identified by States and FNS Regional Offices during Administrative Reviews, and information provided in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. During FY 2017 and FY 2018, Team Nutrition developed and provided numerous training resources to support implementation of the updated Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal pattern requirements which went into effect October 1, 2017. Training resources have included meal pattern posters that convey, through photographs, sample meals and snacks for each age group. In addition, a Growing a Healthier Future With the CACFP infographic was developed and shared with States and CACFP sponsoring organizations to convey the major changes in the updated meal pattern requirements and how they will have an impact upon child nutrition. Finally, 10 training worksheets were developed that: help providers identify cereals and yogurts that meet the updated CACFP meal pattern requirements, review the types of milks allowed in the CACFP, and share strategies for adding whole grains to the CACFP menu. The CACFP Meal Pattern Training Tools webpages which house these materials have been viewed approximately 341,000 times in FY 2018. As of September 30, 2018, over 81,000 print copies of these resources have been distributed by request to CACFP program operators and State agencies.

During FY 2018, work on the development and updating of a number of additional training resources for the CACFP began and are expected to be completed and released during FY 2019. These resources will reflect additional policy guidance released during FY 2017 and FY 2018 concerning the updated CACFP meal patterns. They include a Feeding Infants Guide for the CACFP, Breastfed Babies Welcome Here! materials, and 11 additional training worksheets on topics such as identifying whole grain-rich foods, offering snacks, offering meat/meat alternates, and using the WIC foods list to identify creditable food items.

In FY 2018, Team Nutrition responded to program operators' need for short, interactive trainings on implementing the CACFP meal patterns. As such, Team Nutrition initiated a webinar series for CACFP operators based upon the

above mentioned training materials. The webinar series entitled CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays is being provided in both English and in Spanish. Attendance during the first webinar in October 2017 exceeded 1,000 participants. In FY 2018, Team Nutrition conducted a total of 11 webinars in two languages that have been viewed nearly 23,000 times, providing essential job skills training to CACFP operators on planning, preparing, and offering healthy foods that meet the updated meal pattern requirements.

In FY 2019, Team Nutrition is responding to program administrators' need for interactive trainings that focus on training strategies. As such, Team Nutrition has initiated a quarterly webinar series that focus on tactics and techniques trainers can use to empower program operators with the knowledge and job skills needed to provide high-quality meals and snacks in the CACFP. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions to the presenters and to check their knowledge through interactive polling questions. The webinar series is entitled CACFP Trainers' Circle, and the first webinar exceeded 1,100 participants, which included State agencies, CACFP sponsoring organizations, independent centers, and others who plan and/or conduct trainings for CACFP providers and operators.

FNS also partnered with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) to design a training curriculum to provide State agency staff with the fundamental knowledge and skills they need to implement the updated meal patterns in every CACFP setting. Upon completion of the training, staff have all the materials they need to customize and conduct the same training for sponsoring organizations and centers in their States. In FY 2017 and FY 2018, 106 in-person CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements Trainings have been conducted across the country. Moreover, FNS worked cooperatively with the ICN to release three CACFP online courses to assist CACFP program administrators and operators with planning, preparing, and offering healthy foods that meet meal pattern requirements. Approximately 1,100 participants have completed these courses, which provide yet another way for program operators to access and participate in job skills training when their schedules allow, thereby equipping them to work in the infant, child, and adult care settings with gainful employment. In total, more than 50 online training courses are available on ICN's eLearning Portal website at <http://www.theicn.org>, thereby providing child nutrition program administrators and operators access to online learning on a variety of topics, anytime, anywhere.

Grants: In FY 2018, 38 State agencies received a CACFP Meal Service Training Grant of \$100,000 each for a total of \$3.7 million. These grants are being used by States to provide essential job skills training for CACFP program operators on meal planning, food purchasing, and accommodating special dietary needs. The funding will provide a strong nutritional foundation for children and rewarding career opportunities for adults as CACFP operators which will help them build self-sufficient futures.

CACFP Program Integrity and Simplification

FNS is committed to working with States to ensure that sponsoring organizations, centers, and day care homes meet high standards of program effectiveness and integrity. To that end, FNS has proposed a series of improvements to target systemic and significant violations to further safeguard the integrity of the Child Nutrition Programs and help ensure that taxpayer dollars are being invested as intended.

FNS entered into a cooperative agreement to develop a CACFP training program to equip State agencies with the knowledge and skills necessary to train their CACFP sponsoring organizations in key areas of CACFP program administration, operation, accounting, and financial management. The training is geared toward State agency staff who are primarily responsible for developing State agency policy related to the CACFP and State agency staff who are primarily responsible for providing training and/or technical assistance directly to sponsoring organizations.

The enhanced oversight and enforcement tools included in the proposed rule, *Child Nutrition Program Integrity*, published in FY 2016, would improve the financial management of CACFP by increasing State resources, strengthening review timeframes, and establishing other requirements designed to improve oversight by State agencies and sponsoring organizations. Comments on the proposed rule were analyzed and publication of a final rule is expected in FY 2019.

FNS was directed, by law, to work with State agencies and institutions to examine administrative requirements and submit a report to Congress on actions taken to reduce unnecessary or duplicative paperwork in CACFP. FNS engaged a workgroup of CACFP stakeholders to explore recommendations for streamlining CACFP, which were included in a report submitted to Congress in FY 2015. The report included recommendations to promote local flexibility, embrace technology solutions, and support innovative ways to increase participation. The recommendations also emphasized potential flexibilities to make monitoring tools and reporting processes more effective at improving CACFP integrity and encourage consistency with other Child Nutrition Programs. In FY

2018, FNS continued to engage an internal working group to move forward with recommendations from the report, as feasible.

In 2017, FNS launched a qualitative research project to review implementation of the CACFP Serious Deficiency (SD) process across States. The SD process offers a systematic way for State agencies and sponsoring organizations to take actions allowing institutions and family day care providers to correct issues of non-compliance in the operation of their program. The overarching goal of the SD process is to promote positive outcomes (full and permanent corrections of all deficiencies) while enhancing program integrity. FNS began this project with a review of existing administrative materials and publicly available policy and guidance documents.

In 2018, FNS continued this work and narrowed its focus to the development of a new, electronic guidance resource aimed at assisting State agencies with making determinations of serious deficiency. This resource is planned to be interactive in nature, and allow State agency reviewers to provide information on the number, frequency, and severity of observed non-compliance issues. In exchange, the electronic resource will provide guidance on potential courses of action the State agency might choose.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was established to provide low-income children with access to nutritious meals when school is not in session. Meals meeting Federal nutrition guidelines are served at no cost to all children 18 years old and under at approved SFSP sites in areas in which at least 50 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced price school meals during the school year. Local organizations sponsoring the program must be public or private non-profit schools, government agencies, private non-profit organizations that meet certain criteria or residential camps. Meal sites are limited to two meals (which cannot include both lunch and supper) or one meal and one snack daily. However, summer camps and sites that primarily serve migrant children may be reimbursed for up to three meals or two meals and one snack served to every eligible child each day.

Sponsoring organizations receive reimbursement for each eligible meal served through SFSP, and may receive USDA Foods for use in their meals. Funds also are made available to conduct health inspections and to defray State and local administrative costs.

Facts in Brief

- During 2018, 150.5 million meals were served, a 1 percent decrease from FY 2017 at 151.9 million meals.
- During FY 2018, 49,795 feeding sites provided 150.5 million meals to needy children through the SFSP. Compared to FY 1990, meals have increased 65 percent from 91.2 million.
- In FY 2018, approximately 57.1 percent of the meals served were lunches (57.5 percent in FY 2017), 29.1 percent were breakfasts (28.7 percent FY 2017), and the remaining 13.8 percent were suppers and supplements (13.8 percent in FY 2017).

SFSP Integrity and Program Simplification

In FY 2018, FNS continued to provide support to States to operate the SFSP with integrity and simplify program requirements and guidance. FNS used lessons learned from years of extensive work with State agencies, program operators, and partner organizations to continue work that decreases childhood hunger in the summer months and ensures that all levels of program operation are complying with program requirements. To that end, FNS continued to publish resources to facilitate easier implementation as well as improve integrity. This includes publication of the Simplified Cost Accounting in the Summer Food Service Program Final Rule in June 2018, which codified simplified cost accounting procedures and many other provisions that strengthen integrity and monitoring of the program and streamline implementation.

Additionally, FNS devoted significant resources this year to working with the Office of Inspector General on a three phase audit of the SFSP. The Phase I was completed in FY 2018 and focused on FNS controls over State operations. The final report presented three findings with six recommendations related to strengthening monitoring and oversight of the program, strengthening the waiver process, and improving risk assessment metrics. As a result of this audit, FNS issued revised guidance on the waiver process that strengthens the integrity of the program and ensures compliance with all statutory requirements for waiving program requirements.

In an effort to provide superior customer service to those that participate in the SFSP, both program operators and children that receive meals at summer sites, FNS has made great strides in improving data accessibility and accuracy. FNS developed and launched extensive technology innovations to help connect families to meals through

the Summer Site Finder and the Capacity Builder. The Summer Site Finder is a free, web-based application that allows children, parents, and others to quickly and easily find summer meal sites near them. Through extensive technical assistance to State agencies, FNS was able to streamline the data collection process for the Site Finder while at the same time make advances in the accuracy and timeliness of the data. The data used to populate the site has been made publicly available for download on FNS' website and is also utilized by the National Hunger Clearinghouse hotline and multiple text numbers, increasing the reach and accessibility of information. The Capacity Builder is a vital tool for empowering local communities to identify key areas of need and determine the optimal locations for summer meal sites using data-driven technology.

FNS continues to develop and implement strategies to improve program integrity and accountability in SFSP. Efforts have included unannounced oversight visits across FNS' seven regions.

In 2018, FNS began formulation of a research study to investigate program error in the SFSP. This study will attempt to estimate counting, claiming, and aggregation errors in the program using a combination of administrative records and possible on-site observations. FNS is developing a methodology that can be carried out at minimum cost while achieving the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2010 (IPERA) standards for error measurement.

FNS also conducted analysis of State oversight reports to identify common issues for action, assist in the development of training, and the dissemination of best practices and guidance to improve integrity for State agencies, sponsors, and sites.

Summer EBT Demonstrations

In the 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-80), Congress authorized demonstration projects to develop and test alternative methods of providing access to food for children in low-income households during the summer months when schools are not in regular session, as well as rigorous independent evaluations of each project's effectiveness. To address the challenges associated with providing food to children over the summer, particularly those living in rural areas and Indian Country, where families often live longer distances from meal sites and lack access to public transportation, USDA has supported the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) demonstration projects each year since 2011. Through these projects, States and Tribes provide food benefits on EBT cards, using either a food package model or a debit card model, to eligible low-income families with school-aged children during the summer months, giving them resources to use at retail food stores in their communities. For States that elect to use the food package model, participating households are able to purchase specific types and quantities of healthy foods at WIC-authorized retailers. In States that elect the debit card model, participating households can redeem benefits for SNAP-eligible foods at any SNAP-authorized retailer.

Data-driven evaluations of these projects found that Summer EBT eliminated very low food security among children, the most severe form of food insecurity, by one-third. In addition, Summer EBT was able to improve the diets of children in low-income households during the summer. Evaluations have also illustrated the success of the Summer EBT projects across diverse project areas. Since 2015, FNS has placed a special focus on service in rural communities where Summer EBT has the potential to aid low-income children who have few options for summer nutrition assistance, and supporting innovative projects that provide insight into new and better ways of delivering food assistance to children during the summer.

The size of the Summer EBT projects has varied by year as a result of the program evaluation and the availability of funding.

- In 2017, FNS received additional funds in the 2017 appropriations bill and awarded \$31.5 million in grants to eleven grantees. Of these, nine experienced grantees were awarded \$30.3 million to operate projects in 2017: Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Virginia, and the Chickasaw and Cherokee nations. In addition, FNS competitively selected two new grantees that were awarded \$1.6 million in administrative funds to begin building infrastructure for Summer EBT projects that would offer benefits in summer 2018: Tennessee and Texas.
- In 2018, FNS received additional funds in the 2018 appropriations bill and awarded \$36.8 million in grants to ten grantees to implement projects in summer 2018: Connecticut, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Virginia, and the Chickasaw and Cherokee nations received administrative and food benefit funds; Tennessee and Texas received food benefit funds. Grantees focused on testing new and innovative concepts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their projects. In total, eight states were approved to target 375,000 children in summer 2018.

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides fresh fruits and vegetables to all children in participating elementary schools located in low-income areas as snacks outside of the regular meal service. USDA provides a limited amount of funding to States, which select schools to participate based on statutory criteria. States rank schools based on the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced price meals, and distribute the funds to schools with the highest percentage of students eligible for free and reduced price meal benefits. The program includes the requirement that each student receives between \$50 and \$75 worth of fresh produce over the school year.

Section 19 of the NSLA authorizes the FFVP and provides a steady source of funding through an annual transfer from the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Section 32 funds. Funding is allocated among States using a statutory formula that provides base funding equally to each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, and provides additional funding to all States operating a school lunch program (including Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) on the basis of population. FNS recently restructured the timing of the funding allocation for FFVP to align with the federal fiscal year helping to ensure States and locals are better able to spend FFVP funds and bring nutritious fruits and vegetable to children. USDA:

- Provides implementation guidance and technical assistance as needed;
- Provides training to program operators as needed;
- Developed an FFVP Handbook, which is available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/FFVP/handbook.pdf>, to reflect statutory authority and address questions provided by State agencies; and
- Published a proposed rule on February 24, 2012, to codify the requirements for the operation of the program (a final rule is currently under development); and developed an online toolkit, which is available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/FFVP/toolkit.htm>, to encourage participation and aid in the understanding of the FFVP.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Pilot for Canned, Frozen and Dried Fruits and Vegetables

Section 4214 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) directed USDA to conduct a Pilot in SY 2014-2015 allowing schools participating in the FFVP to offer canned, frozen or dried fruits and vegetables, starting January 1, 2015. The purpose of the Pilot was to target FFVP schools with barriers beyond normal situations that limit their ability to efficiently and effectively operate the FFVP with only fresh produce. The barriers may include:

- Limited distribution and delivery of fresh fruits and vegetables;
- Isolation of schools;
- Space restrictions which hinders storage of fresh fruits and vegetables;
- High cost of fresh fruits and vegetables; and/or
- Limited ability to prepare fresh fruits and vegetables for the FFVP.

USDA was directed to conduct an evaluation of the impacts, implementation, acceptance and other outcomes of the pilot. Schools were authorized to use their SY 2014-2015 FFVP allocation to purchase fruits and vegetables allowed under the Pilot.

Alaska, Maine, Kansas, and Delaware were accepted to participate in the pilot. Results from the evaluation were published in January 2017. The evaluation found that students' daily consumption of fruits and vegetables decreased by approximately one-fourth of a cup after implementation of the pilot program. The evaluation also revealed that views of the pilot varied by stakeholder groups. While food service managers and school food authority directors viewed the pilot as an improvement, two-thirds of parents stated they would prefer their children receive fresh fruits and vegetables (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/evaluation-elementary-schools-pilot-project-canned-frozen-or-dried-fruits-and-vegetables-fresh>).

FOOD SAFETY

The Office of Food Safety (OFS) uses its food safety education funds to develop education, instruction and technical assistance resources to facilitate the implementation of food safety requirements in Child Nutrition programs and to support the food safety needs of program operators at every level of program administration. These resources are supported by science-based food safety research as well as continuous collaboration with food safety partners.

Food Safety and Food Defense in Schools

In FY 2018, OFS continued to promote food safety through food safety resources; “The Food Safety Action Guide”, a tool for school nutrition directors to assess their current food safety program and create a culture of food safety; “Flash of Food Safety”, a video series of best practices for food safe schools; and “Produce Safety Hacks”, a video series to help food service operators keep fruits and vegetables safe and at a high quality.

OFS expanded its food defense efforts with “Food Defense Tabletop Exercises,” live-scenario based training that prepares employees and personnel to develop necessary standard operating procedures in the event of an emergency situation. In FY 2018, in partnership with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN), OFS offered the Food Defense Tabletop Exercises in eight locations, including two in American Samoa. These trainings reached well over 100 school nutrition professionals. Also in FY 2018, OFS collaborated with internal and external stakeholders to complete the development of two new scenarios.

In addition, OFS collaborated with the Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS) to incorporate farm to school food safety techniques and procurement strategies into Produce Safety University. OFS partnered with OCFS on the production of three factsheets for use by child nutrition professionals. Factsheet topics included: the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule, Common Farm to School Program Food Safety Questions and Answers, and Strategies for School Garden Stakeholders and Local Farmers working with School Nutrition Programs.

In FY 2018, OFS additionally provided food safety support to the “Formal Agreement between USDA and FDA Relative to Cooperation and Coordination.” Based on provisions of this agreement, OFS coordinated resources and training to support the Food Safety Modernization Act’s Produce Safety Rule; enhancing alignment of produce safety activities, such as Produce Safety University; and training for Cooperative Extension personnel in Produce Safety Rule standards. Through OFS, USDA developed four new online modules regarding the Produce Safety Rule; the modules enable school foods purchasers to buy domestic produce with food safety confidence.

Produce Safety

Produce Safety University (PSU) is a week-long course offered by OFS in partnership with the Agricultural Marketing Service’s Specialty Crops Inspection Division. PSU immerses child nutrition professionals in the produce industry and highlights food safety concerns across the supply chain from farm to fork. Produce Safety University was offered five times in FY 2018. Classes were held across the country in Davis, CA; Chicago, IL; Atlanta, GA; Philadelphia, PA; and Baltimore, MD.

In FY 2018, 150 child nutrition professionals attended PSU from 45 States, the District of Columbia, and American Samoa. On average, graduates train 50 additional child nutrition professionals within the first six months of graduation. In FY 2018, the curriculum was expanded to include: the FDA’s Food Safety Modernization Act rules, culinary skills for maximizing produce appeal, and lessons learned from previous produce associated outbreaks.

As a result of their experience at PSU, 21 percent of graduates started a school garden, 44 percent worked directly with a farmer to buy more local foods, and 50 percent worked with a produce distributor to buy more local foods. Additionally, 89 percent of graduates made changes to receiving, storage, or preparation and service practices, and 80 percent of graduates felt more comfortable writing specifications.

Food Allergies

Through cooperative agreements with the Center for Food Safety in Child Nutrition Programs at Kansas State University, and the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) at the University of Mississippi, OFS guided the development of a research-based educational video that addresses the importance of safe food practices in the management of food allergies in schools. This tool, specifically designed to motivate behavior change, was integrated into ICN’s *Managing Food Allergies in Child Nutrition*, a training course supported by ICN’s cooperative agreement with OFS. In addition to the video, OFS created a scenario-based training component for the course that allows participants to explore and evaluate their responses in advance of an emergency food allergy situation. The new, expanded food allergy training was piloted in FY 2018. Based on the pilot results, *Managing Food Allergies in Child Nutrition Programs* will be offered in two formats; one for child nutrition directors, and one for child nutrition staff. The format for child nutrition directors was completed in FY 2018. Secondly, *Managing Food Allergies in Child Nutrition Programs* was offered at no cost to child nutrition professionals seven times across the United States, reaching more than 160 attendees.

Center for Food Safety in Child Nutrition Programs

OFS, through a cooperative agreement, supports the Center for Food Safety in Child Nutrition Programs (the Center) at Kansas State University. The Center is the only entity that focuses on science-based food safety research in schools, child care, and other Child Nutrition Programs. In FY 2018, the Center delivered two sessions of *Serving up Science: The Path to Safe Food in Schools*. This immersion course teaches school nutrition professionals food science and food safety principles as they apply to the National School Lunch Program and other Child Nutrition Programs. On average each attendee has trained an additional 62 individuals and impacts approximately 15,000 students. A total of 331 school nutrition professionals from all 50 states and 1 US territory have participated in the program; impacting 3,751,456 students since the program began.

Additionally, the Center's research is applied to OFS's food safety education resources developed through Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN). Based on the Center's field research and applied data, OFS recognized a demonstrated need for Summer Meals Food Safety Kits. In FY 2018, OFS provided 17,000 Traditional Summer Meals Food Safety Kits to stakeholders. The Summer Meals Food Safety Kit is an on-the-go kit for school nutrition professionals to easily train volunteers new to food safety. The 17,000 kits were distributed to 48 US states and territories, including American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Institute of Child Nutrition

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) at the University of Mississippi delivers food safety training, resources and technical assistance in a variety of easy-to-use formats to operators of federally funded Child Nutrition Programs through a cooperative agreement with OFS. These resources and trainings enhance the food safety knowledge base of child nutrition personnel and help ensure that all foods served in Child Nutrition Programs are safe. The ICN offers face-to-face and on-site food safety training seminars at little or no cost to participants and provides free online food safety courses designed to support the professional development of child nutrition program and child care personnel at all levels of responsibility. Through the OFS cooperative agreement, ICN offered 164 in-person food safety training courses that reached more than 4,200 child nutrition professionals on subjects including Norovirus, Food Allergies, Food Defense, Food Safety Basics, Food Safety in Schools, and Food Safety in Child Care.

Food Safety Promotion, Coordination and Support

OFS provided technical assistance on food safety issues to internal and external stakeholders, including guidance on executing food safety recalls, produce safety and assessments of food safety issues.

In FY 2018, OFS provided technical food safety assistance that informed the Child Nutrition Education and Promotion Branch about storage guidelines for breastmilk. OFS provided expert technical review for nutrition education projects such as the *Feeding Infants in the Child and Adult Care Food Program guide*, and the *Mother's Guide for Breastfed Babies Welcome Here*. OFS similarly provided food safety assistance through Emergency Support Function 11 regarding the shelf life and storage of infant formula and baby food provided by USDA to the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

OFS continued to host the USDA State Emergency Notification System (SENS) – an alert system that allows State agencies to rapidly notify local agencies about food safety emergencies, such as recalls. At the end of FY 2018, there were 27 active SENS accounts across the 26 States/territories.

Due to the amount of food recalls affecting Child Nutrition Programs, in FY 2018 OFS developed new resources to help those who distribute and use USDA Foods understand their roles in recall situations and prepare to respond with confidence: two new USDA Foods Recall Preparedness & Response Checklists, one for state distributing agencies and one for recipient agencies, are currently available on the OFS website.

Hold and Recall Actions

OFS closely monitored food recalls affecting FNS nutrition assistance programs and communicated with food safety regulatory agencies (USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)) to determine the impact of food recalls on USDA Foods. Responding to food safety complaints about USDA Foods directly supports the Agency's efforts to provide safe and nutritious foods to the nation's school children.

In FY 2018, OFS responded to 212 USDA Foods complaints with identified food safety concerns. Fruit and vegetable products represented 112 of these complaints, followed by 49 meat and poultry complaints. Foreign material, mold and damaged packaging were the reasons for 185 of the complaints.

OFS coordinated with FSIS on one USDA Foods recall. OFS coordinated with FSIS and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to recall approximately 34,400 pounds of fully cooked ground beef products that may have been contaminated with extraneous materials. The product was delivered to schools in Maine and Connecticut.

Additionally, OFS coordinated with FSIS on one USDA Foods market withdrawal. The market withdrawal involved swollen cans of chicken distributed to schools in Oklahoma and Puerto Rico.

OFS also contributed to one Child Nutrition label recall and one Child Nutrition Programs reimbursable meals recall. OFS coordinated efforts with FSIS regarding a recall of approximately 960 pounds of cooked ground beef patty products that may have been distributed to day care centers in California and Utah. In the Child Nutrition Programs reimbursable meals recall, OFS coordinated with FSIS to recall an undetermined amount of various raw and frozen fish, beef, pork and poultry products that were produced without federal inspection and distributed to HeadStart Programs in Puerto Rico.

Acquisition and Distribution of USDA Foods

Eight nutrition assistance programs incorporate USDA Foods as part of the overall assistance provided to recipient agencies. AMS and FNS work together to provide USDA Foods to these programs in the types, forms, and quantities needed to meet planned levels of assistance. In addition to providing food to people who need it, purchases of USDA Foods support domestic agricultural markets.

The USDA Foods subsidy for the NSLP and CACFP is authorized by the NSLA in Sections 6(c) and 17(h), respectively, and is based on a "rate per meal" concept which is adjusted each July 1 to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for food used in schools and institutions. Similarly, Section 13(h) of the NSLA authorizes USDA Foods for the SFSP. Additionally, Section 6(e) of the NSLA requires that in each school year, not less than 12 percent of all Federal nutrition assistance in the NSLP be provided in the form of USDA Foods. When available, USDA also provides bonus foods acquired through the price support and surplus removal programs (Section 32). The value of bonus food is counted towards the 12 percent requirement.

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79, the 2014 Farm Bill) increased funding for the purchase of fruits, vegetables, and nuts for USDA's domestic nutrition assistance programs from \$390 million in FY 2008 to \$406 million in FY 2012 and subsequent fiscal years. At least \$50 million of these funds, annually, must be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution to schools and service institutions.

FY 2018 USDA Foods Assistance Rate

For SY 2017-2018, schools, daycare centers and residential institutions were authorized to receive an average of 23.25 cents worth of USDA Foods per lunch/supper served. The rate for USDA Foods increased to 23.50 cents on July 1, 2018, for SY 2018-2019. USDA Foods provided to Child Nutrition Programs (excluding bonus and cash in lieu of entitlement USDA Foods) totaled \$1.6 billion for FY 2018.

USDA Foods in Schools

USDA strengthens the Nation's nutrition safety net and supports American agriculture by distributing high quality, 100 percent American-grown USDA Foods to schools. The distribution of USDA Foods to schools is managed at the State level by a State distributing agency, which works with local school districts to ensure the effective use of these foods in school meal programs. USDA offers over 200 different products to schools. These foods are low in added sugar, sodium and fat and support the meal pattern requirements for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. In FY 2018, FNS continued to ensure schools had access to a wide variety of healthy foods by adding new products such as mixed berry cups, frozen mixed vegetables, frozen diced mushrooms, precooked grilled chicken fillets, pre-sliced smoked turkey and turkey ham, egg patties, and white whole wheat flour. FNS also reformulated a number of items to continue to improve the nutrition quality and to better meet the needs of school programs. To ensure effective use of USDA Foods in schools and improve knowledge of best practices for USDA Foods utilization, FNS provided education sessions at national conferences, local meetings, and webinars, and circulated a quarterly USDA Foods e-letter targeting the school foodservice population.

USDA Department of Defense Fresh Produce Project

FNS and the Department of Defense (DoD) work together to enable school districts to obtain fresh produce. Under this joint venture, schools can use their USDA Foods entitlement to order fresh produce through DoD's contracting and distribution network. DoD uses its large-scale buying power to help meet the demand for consistent, weekly deliveries of a wide variety of fresh produce to school cafeterias, central kitchens, SFSP sponsors and State and Tribal organizations. This project has grown steadily since its beginning in SY 1994-1995. Forty-eight States, Puerto

Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam and the Virgin Islands spent a combined total of over \$271 million in entitlement funds on produce through this program in SY 2017-2018.

The Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System (FFAVORS) web application offers participating agencies in NSLP, SFSP and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations the ability to order and receive shipments of fresh produce to their location. In support of Farm-to-School initiatives, State of origin information is captured so customers may determine if the products are provided by their local agricultural businesses. In FY 2018, FNS implemented four software releases to the FFAVORS web application providing enhancements and code fixes to existing functionality.

Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables

Section 4202 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79, the 2014 Farm Bill) authorized a Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables. States applied through a competitive process in September 2014 based on criteria outlined in the 2014 Farm Bill. Consistent with 2014 Farm Bill requirements, California, Connecticut, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin were selected for participation in the pilot, with all States receiving deliveries in FY 2018 and spending approximately \$11 million in USDA Foods entitlement funds for SY 2017-2018.

The pilot provides selected States with additional flexibility in the procurement of unprocessed fruits and vegetables using existing USDA Foods National School Lunch Program (NSLP) entitlement funds. It also allows for the use of geographic preference. States and school food authorities can use pre-existing commercial distribution channels and develop new relationships with growers, produce wholesalers, and distributors to procure these items.

USDA conducted an evaluation of the pilot from the States' and schools' perspectives that was published in March 2018. The evaluation found that the total amount of produce purchased and overall participation were limited in the first year of the pilot, but grew in the second year. Most approved vendors were distributors. The pilot was less appealing to school food authorities that did not have the capacity to conduct procurement or manage the pilot, or did not have an approved vendor in the area. States and vendors expressed concern that the invoice reconciliation process was administratively burdensome and limited the volume of deliveries under the pilot.

The evaluation did not address Federal resources being used to administer this pilot. In addition, in 2018, AMS audited vendors from each state. Six of the eight vendors audited failed the audit due to delivery of nondomestic produce and/or not meeting federal food safety requirements. Vendors have been given an opportunity to correct the audit findings to gain reinstatement into the program.

USDA Foods Administrative Expenses

Web Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM) is the demand-driven food ordering system used by State Agencies and their Recipient Agencies to place USDA Foods requests in support of the programs run within the State Agency. Demand requests are reviewed by FNS HQ and Regional Office staff and forwarded onto AMS for procurement activities. FNS funds WBSCM operational costs as part of a partnership with AMS.

Cash in Lieu of USDA Foods

Section 6 of the NSLA authorizes funds to be used to provide cash in lieu of USDA Foods, in accordance with sections 16, 17(h), and 18(b) of the NSLA. The State of Kansas is permanently receiving cash payments in lieu of USDA Foods as a result of the NSLA and Child Nutrition Act amendments of 1975. Cash is also being received by school districts that began participating during the 1980s and early 1990s in alternative demonstration projects that provided cash or Commodity Letters of Credit in lieu of USDA Foods. Some nonresidential child care institutions participating in CACFP have also elected to receive their USDA Foods entitlements in cash.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE FUNDS

Section 7 of the CNA authorizes funds to the States for program administration and for supervision and technical assistance in local school districts and child care institutions. In FY 2018, \$297 million was appropriated for State Administrative Expenses (SAE). Funds appropriated for SAE are available to States for obligation over a two-year period. The State agency may carry over up to 20 percent of the initial allocation. Each fiscal year, carryover exceeding the 20 percent limit is recovered by USDA.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS

FNS published two reports related to the Child Nutrition Programs during FY 2018, which are available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/child-nutrition-programs>. These reports include:

Evaluation of Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables: Authorized by Section 4202 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79, the 2014 Farm Bill), the USDA Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables was designed to provide States with additional flexibility in the procurement of unprocessed fruits and vegetables. Participating States and school food authorities (SFAs) can purchase approved items with existing USDA Foods National School Lunch Program entitlement funds from any USDA Pilot-authorized vendor in support of the school meal standards. Using administrative purchase data from three school years (SY 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016) and qualitative interview data with State Distributing Agency officials, the evaluation examines the quantity and cost of each type of fruit and vegetable in the Pilot, characteristics of participating school food authorities, States' perceptions of the challenges and benefits to participation, and comparisons to USDA Foods and USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsor and Provider Characteristics Study: The CACFP Sponsor and Provider Characteristics Study is focused on the child care component of the CACFP, which provides Federal funds for meals and snacks served to children in public or private child care centers, Head Start programs, outside-school-hours care centers, afterschool care programs, emergency shelters, and day care homes. The study also covered centers that participate in the At-Risk Afterschool (At-Risk) component, which provides meals to children and youth through age 18.

Table FNS-1. Financing for Fiscal Year 2018

State Or Territory	Special Milk	School Lunch	School Breakfast	State Admin Expenses	Commodities and Cash in Lieu of Commodities	Child and Adult Care	Summer Food Service	Total Program Contribution
Alabama	22,730	214,168,049	79,595,855	3,285,888	28,311,762	57,550,243	9,713,196	392,647,723
Alaska.....	0	37,883,046	13,010,877	1,364,219	3,090,654	9,198,933	1,612,243	66,159,971
Arizona.....	43,190	275,635,579	94,391,013	5,353,277	29,074,746	52,512,366	3,510,479	460,520,649
Arkansas.....	0	136,776,424	55,904,795	4,234,202	16,135,262	51,422,193	3,766,665	268,239,541
California.....	290,925	1,511,044,607	521,341,802	32,094,485	172,068,573	460,650,814	22,012,487	2,719,503,693
Colorado.....	196,873	134,051,878	48,528,910	3,597,508	13,669,065	26,593,985	5,071,621	231,709,841
Connecticut.....	97,820	106,075,566	32,911,514	2,042,053	10,418,981	18,417,337	4,743,748	174,707,019
Delaware.....	15,861	36,121,153	13,991,359	1,188,417	7,086,965	18,100,860	2,260,051	78,764,666
District of Columbia.....	2,229	27,746,898	11,391,988	838,391	2,007,681	9,881,420	2,118,186	53,986,794
Florida.....	14,330	894,540,095	280,842,845	15,386,503	89,372,828	275,577,003	42,318,775	1,598,052,378
Georgia.....	28,967	529,880,576	195,904,957	11,856,102	51,462,685	114,327,609	15,643,791	919,104,687
Hawaii.....	0	46,420,674	11,010,099	1,017,026	1,744,506	6,714,689	687,135	67,594,128
Idaho.....	71,104	53,083,208	18,474,218	1,055,885	6,746,495	7,984,029	4,250,868	91,665,806
Illinois.....	1,873,362	462,591,966	144,364,862	9,514,813	48,278,290	145,085,227	14,111,796	825,820,316
Indiana.....	113,244	262,957,711	79,496,263	4,814,686	35,594,343	56,758,835	8,524,975	448,260,057
Iowa.....	60,461	110,921,090	27,593,562	2,428,849	17,197,416	27,611,564	4,419,672	190,232,616
Kansas.....	55,256	106,817,029	31,835,885	1,980,649	13,694,705	31,590,790	4,912,205	190,886,520
Kentucky.....	17,598	232,240,207	95,395,042	3,794,122	27,444,280	42,871,242	10,353,183	412,115,673
Louisiana.....	0	245,104,876	88,023,817	5,338,802	25,919,294	97,137,350	8,252,711	469,776,850
Maine.....	12,231	33,762,467	12,758,033	1,210,604	5,074,910	9,446,113	2,529,173	64,793,531
Maryland.....	260,041	179,171,499	69,429,578	5,103,679	24,672,928	52,750,540	10,513,262	341,901,527
Massachusetts.....	184,751	198,930,390	66,007,165	3,231,421	26,039,298	65,616,625	8,644,592	368,654,243
Michigan.....	190,715	309,535,735	114,396,845	5,457,224	40,477,798	70,258,783	11,959,830	552,276,930
Minnesota.....	736,978	169,411,182	54,007,757	4,246,685	23,740,574	67,536,329	11,070,800	330,750,304
Mississippi.....	3,654	170,259,473	63,823,814	2,116,094	18,848,312	47,123,081	8,304,578	310,479,005
Missouri.....	423,826	211,067,727	78,631,971	3,832,133	30,313,829	54,832,255	15,377,059	394,478,801
Montana.....	5,731	28,842,685	10,388,332	890,021	3,888,384	11,286,051	2,376,764	57,677,968
Nebraska.....	59,340	75,691,447	19,837,207	3,311,792	13,524,344	30,607,307	3,025,319	146,056,756
Nevada.....	44,594	103,300,567	40,307,121	1,545,191	9,373,819	12,003,789	2,028,997	168,604,078
New Hampshire.....	129,560	21,353,338	5,375,615	561,454	4,057,345	4,788,565	1,076,439	37,342,316
New Jersey.....	251,812	262,027,080	94,985,332	8,693,826	32,673,828	82,842,092	16,840,937	498,314,906
New Mexico.....		101,724,441	43,957,154	3,028,458	11,521,850	33,511,886	5,919,630	199,663,418
New York.....	545,643	784,245,610	255,940,812	14,391,999	78,318,411	243,161,977	61,531,550	1,438,136,001
North Carolina.....	97,255	376,052,969	134,750,289	7,156,988	48,687,713	95,760,470	14,648,953	677,154,636
North Dakota.....	22,225	22,010,682	6,011,431	1,765,709	5,066,849	9,889,528	1,057,711	45,824,135
Ohio.....	358,763	357,805,143	123,093,648	8,566,235	46,946,198	90,888,365	13,051,247	640,709,599
Oklahoma.....	22,811	167,688,433	59,208,214	5,001,849	21,967,920	62,510,444	4,741,687	321,141,358
Oregon.....	85,388	115,843,202	39,775,848	2,776,541	14,671,540	34,698,974	5,833,371	213,684,864
Pennsylvania.....	268,109	396,664,678	124,175,880	7,846,240	54,676,427	120,637,690	14,447,670	718,716,694
Rhode Island.....	36,998	30,593,568	10,061,701	814,129	4,010,361	9,185,357	1,509,995	56,212,110
South Carolina.....	6,467	210,497,924	81,130,021	4,329,852	16,864,991	35,722,417	8,975,970	357,527,642
South Dakota.....	18,987	29,023,357	7,560,635	1,147,684	3,180,583	8,143,972	1,745,060	50,820,277
Tennessee.....	17,798	284,569,394	113,752,351	4,047,509	30,201,013	67,387,137	15,281,538	515,256,741
Texas.....	11,321	1,509,890,564	593,791,153	28,174,092	168,665,599	406,700,011	33,118,468	2,740,351,208
Utah.....	39,038	101,037,363	22,793,466	2,052,756	16,160,247	28,378,853	664,716	171,126,439
Vermont.....	26,306	15,874,876	6,622,434	693,031	2,327,224	6,408,337	1,446,639	33,398,848
Virginia.....	98,378	242,989,440	91,222,051	4,936,558	26,438,430	51,890,589	10,353,811	427,929,258
Washington.....	210,588	200,051,526	57,403,898	4,200,298	24,627,776	48,331,949	5,974,505	340,800,539
West Virginia.....	11,019	81,246,406	42,427,750	2,860,307	8,040,963	16,736,919	1,897,483	153,220,847

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State Or Territory	Special Milk	School Lunch	School Breakfast	State Admin Expenses	Commodities and Cash in Lieu of Commodities	Child and Adult Care	Summer Food Service	Total Program Contribution
Wisconsin.....	843,159	171,224,123	53,682,979	3,966,902	24,414,379	38,267,411	9,334,588	301,733,542
Wyoming.....	18,518	14,856,511	4,154,904	796,524	2,245,271	4,663,347	927,422	27,662,497
Guam.....	0	8,772,790	3,258,391	304,571	29,542	459,444	0	12,824,739
Puerto Rico.....	0	110,700,798	25,942,374	1,494,526	10,476,291	19,672,528	7,555,238	175,841,755
Virgin Islands.....	0	2,136,596	274,923	210,990	458,244	603,985	304,222	3,988,961
DOD.....	0	7,155,756	19,245	0	290,779,766	0	0	297,954,766
AAFES.....	0	0	0	0	737,731	0	0	737,731
Anticipated Adjustment.....	286,708	230,643,287	269,602,508	53,235,733	66,123,240	300,593,344	29,602,458	950,087,279
TOTAL ^a.....	8,232,662	12,760,713,659	4,644,572,488	315,185,482	1,809,642,460	3,753,282,954	511,955,469	23,803,585,173

^a Data based on obligations as reported September 30, 2018. Commodities are based on food orders for fiscal year 2018. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table FNS-2. Child Nutrition Program Entitlement and Bonus for Fiscal Year 2018

State or Territory	Entitlement	Bonus	Total
Alabama	\$25,805,070	-	\$25,805,070
Alaska	2,779,715	-	2,779,715
Arizona.....	26,301,813	\$161,858	26,463,671
Arkansas.....	13,832,678	84,097	13,916,775
California	148,321,635	304,133	148,625,767
Colorado.....	12,335,185	110,018	12,445,202
Connecticut	9,557,887	-	9,557,887
Delaware	6,147,394	110,018	6,257,412
District of Columbia.....	1,486,644	-	1,486,644
Florida.....	76,221,332	-	76,221,332
Georgia.....	45,875,633	110,018	45,985,650
Hawaii	1,220,806	110,018	1,330,824
Idaho	6,191,072	135,938	6,327,009
Illinois	41,411,487	-	41,411,487
Indiana	32,865,724	-	32,865,724
Iowa	15,374,409	135,938	15,510,347
Kansas ^a	-	-	-
Kentucky.....	25,289,863	55,009	25,344,871
Louisiana.....	21,160,332	110,018	21,270,350
Maine	4,672,665	-	4,672,665
Maryland.....	22,051,144	-	22,051,144
Massachusetts.....	23,334,290	-	23,334,290
Michigan	37,046,847	55,009	37,101,856
Minnesota.....	20,364,786	-	20,364,786
Mississippi	16,743,992	223,204	16,967,195
Missouri	27,600,679	-	27,600,679
Montana	3,346,241	-	3,346,241
Nebraska	12,061,024	-	12,061,024
Nevada	8,878,168	-	8,878,168
New Hampshire.....	3,946,251	-	3,946,251
New Jersey	28,948,929	110,018	29,058,947
New Mexico.....	9,719,875	80,929	9,800,804
New York.....	65,880,460	249,124	66,129,584
North Carolina.....	43,853,130	135,938	43,989,067
North Dakota.....	4,441,185	-	4,441,185
Ohio	42,522,594	-	42,522,594
Oklahoma.....	19,330,555	-	19,330,555
Oregon	12,805,948	110,018	12,915,965
Pennsylvania	48,933,949	87,266	49,021,214
Rhode Island	3,561,081	-	3,561,081
South Carolina.....	15,207,693	-	15,207,693
South Dakota.....	2,528,875	135,938	2,664,813
Tennessee.....	27,141,125	-	27,141,125
Texas	147,626,845	190,947	147,817,792
Utah.....	14,645,786	-	14,645,786
Vermont	1,998,912	25,920	2,024,832
Virginia	23,538,573	194,115	23,732,688

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State or Territory	Entitlement	Bonus	Total
Washington	22,070,427	84,097	22,154,524
West Virginia	7,223,095	-	7,223,095
Wisconsin.....	22,231,104	-	22,231,104
Wyoming.....	1,977,115	-	1,977,115
Puerto Rico.....	9,125,444	718,283	9,843,726
Virgin Islands.....	429,698	-	429,698
AAFES	708,642	29,089	737,731
DoD Fresh.....	290,779,766	-	290,779,766
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses	13,408,440		13,408,440
Undistributed.....	3,036,025	-	3,036,025
Anticipated Adjustment	62,168,444		62,168,444
TOTAL ^b.....	1,638,068,476	3,856,951	1,641,925,427

^a Kansas receives all assistance as cash in lieu

^b Source: WBSCM sales orders and contract information

Table FNS-3. Child Nutrition Quantity and Value of Commodities for Fiscal Year 2018

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	Pounds	Value
APPLES, BULK FOR PROCESSING	40,319,003	\$14,864,330
APPLES, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	5,298,852	4,014,760
APPLES, FRESH	747,054	414,617
APPLES, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	514,800	387,336
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	25,506,591	13,800,173
APPLESAUCE, CUPS, UNSWEETENED	29,445,525	18,086,446
APRICOTS, CUPS, FROZEN	1,884,960	3,338,174
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	1,181,952	982,060
BEANS, CANNED, BABY LIMA, LOW-SODIUM	174,960	83,125
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK TURTLE, LOW-SODIUM	3,044,304	1,038,925
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK-EYED PEA, LOW-SODIUM	1,014,768	391,245
BEANS, CANNED, GARBANZO, LOW-SODIUM	2,379,456	866,514
BEANS, CANNED, GREAT NORTHERN, LOW-SODIUM	454,896	157,585
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM	17,916,202	6,662,935
BEANS, CANNED, KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM	1,924,560	728,740
BEANS, CANNED, PINK, LOW-SODIUM	1,014,768	353,609
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM	8,957,142	2,957,665
BEANS, CANNED, REFRIED, LOW-SODIUM	4,244,856	1,764,549
BEANS, CANNED, SMALL RED, LOW-SODIUM	629,856	221,884
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM	8,852,166	3,038,622
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN	40,000	18,800
BEANS, DRY, PINTO	281,280	115,479
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, BULK FOR PROCESSING	176,000	73,920
BEANS, GREEN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	5,662,800	3,063,291
BEEF, BULK FOR PROCESSING	74,295,000	167,360,434
BEEF, CANNED	360,000	917,222
BEEF, CRUMBLES, WITH SOY PROTEIN, COOKED, FROZEN	3,320,000	8,374,964
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN	22,286,800	53,381,530
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN, LFTB OPTIONAL	1,280,000	3,091,032
BEEF, PATTIES, 85/15, FROZEN	1,444,000	3,682,724
BEEF, PATTIES, 85/15, WITH SOY PROTEIN, FROZEN	1,140,000	2,405,290
BEEF, PATTIES, 90/10, FROZEN	1,064,000	3,038,294
BEEF, PATTIES, COOKED, WITH SOY PROTEIN, FROZEN	2,736,000	7,006,653
BEEF, PATTIES, LEAN, FROZEN	152,000	469,380
BEEF, PATTIES, COOKED, FROZEN	1,786,000	6,286,602
BLUEBERRIES, FROZEN, HIGHBUSH, UNSWEETENED	2,653,200	2,929,520
BLUEBERRIES, FROZEN, WILD, UNSWEETENED	2,926,080	2,978,417
BROCCOLI, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	10,308,060	14,506,480
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,945,296	823,016
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	7,286,400	3,575,191
CATFISH, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH BREADED, FILLET STRIPS, FROZEN	960,000	3,974,000

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	Pounds	Value
CHEESE, AMERICAN, LOAVES	1,029,600	1,748,498
CHEESE, AMERICAN, SLICES	9,028,500	14,562,865
CHEESE, BLENDED AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT, SLICES	9,939,600	13,717,266
CHEESE, CHEDDAR, BULK FOR PROCESSING	50,469,600	85,955,837
CHEESE, CHEDDAR, REDUCED FAT, SHREDDED	6,144,000	11,260,605
CHEESE, CHEDDAR, SHREDDED	3,302,100	6,134,162
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, BULK FOR PROCESSING	52,520,162	84,425,496
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LITE, SHREDDED	2,660,820	4,458,699
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LOW MOISTURE, PART SKIM, LOAVES	5,362,560	8,759,952
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LOW MOSITURE, PART SKIM, SHREDDED	4,878,720	8,348,818
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LOW MOSITURE, PART SKIM, STRING	2,532,600	6,503,116
CHERRIES, CANNED, WATER PACKED	140,886	102,837
CHERRIES, DRIED	59,136	268,182
CHERRIES, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	499,200	392,691
CHICKEN, BULK FOR PROCESSING	163,656,000	142,648,139
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	562,500	1,122,041
CHICKEN, CUT UP, FROZEN	3,480,000	3,592,004
CHICKEN, DICED, COOKED, FROZEN	11,544,200	21,433,705
CHICKEN, FAJITA STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	8,267,700	13,874,497
CHICKEN BREAST FILLET, FROZEN	1,832,250	4,546,229
CHICKEN, OVEN ROASTED, COOKED, FROZEN	4,932,000	12,111,910
CHICKEN, UNSEASONED STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	5,226,000	10,287,769
CORN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	14,319,540	6,197,580
CORN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	15,840,000	8,875,039
CORNMEAL, WHOLE GRAIN, BLUE	9,504	8,173
CRANBERRIES, DRIED	242,550	523,811
CRANBERRIES, DRIED, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	3,164,190	7,888,217
DoD FRESH PRODUCE	0	290,779,766
EGGS, BULK FOR PROCESSING	12,768,000	10,268,366
EGGS, LIQUID WHOLE, FROZEN	3,134,040	2,994,203
EGG, PATTY, FROZEN	1,226,975	2,279,391
FLOUR, BULK FOR PROCESSING	22,643,000	5,048,264
FLOUR, WHITE WHOLE WHEAT/ENRICHED BLEND	4,457,640	1,370,711
FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT	326,040	71,942
FRUIT MIX, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	31,211,978	20,962,718
FRUIT MIX, DRIED	436,550	1,463,441
MILK, 1% LOW-FAT	437,133	204,786
MIXED BERRY CUP, FROZEN	17,673,600	27,803,769
MIXED VEGETABLES, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	2,098,800	1,283,344
MUSHROOMS, DICED, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	118,800	97,588
OATS, ROLLED	171,072	99,901
OIL, SOYBEAN	295,680	210,339

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	Pounds	Value
OIL, VEGETABLE	2,882,880	1,622,592
OIL, VEGETABLE, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	960,000	422,587
ORANGES, FRESH.....	149,796	86,348
ORANGE JUICE, INDIVIDUAL, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED.....	16,583,424	11,489,869
ORANGE JUICE, BULK FOR PROCESSING	218,400	781,872
PANCAKES, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH.....	1,406,160	1,459,642
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN.....	380,000	164,424
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	3,036,400	1,229,892
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	48,621,723	32,583,662
PEACHES, CUPS, FROZEN	20,364,960	25,431,269
PEACHES, SLICED, FROZEN	266,000	270,142
PEANUT BUTTER	1,737,120	1,700,792
PEANUT BUTTER BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	3,120,000	2,652,880
PEANUT BUTTER, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	218,295	492,336
PEANUTS, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	3,608,000	1,677,438
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	42,147,093	27,742,732
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	2,125,416	1,054,547
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	4,554,000	2,821,386
PEPPER/ONION BLEND, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	1,108,800	1,297,150
POLLOCK, ALASKA, BULK FOR PROCESSING	2,772,000	3,985,748
POLLOCK, ALASKA, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN	1,558,000	3,577,856
PORK, BULK FOR PROCESSING	11,259,270	12,198,067
PORK, CANNED.....	504,000	793,714
PORK, HAM, FROZEN.....	7,859,600	14,883,240
PORK, LEG ROAST, FROZEN.....	1,920,000	2,511,841
PORK, PULLED, FROZEN	4,171,400	8,284,783
POTATO WEDGES, FAT FREE, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN.....	1,188,000	857,300
POTATO WEDGES, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN.....	2,970,000	2,301,154
POTATOES, BULK FOR PROCESSING	185,728,165	22,895,022
POTATOES, DICED, FROZEN	792,000	497,323
POTATOES, OVEN FRIES, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN	6,850,800	5,389,902
POTATOES, RUSSET, FRESH.....	160,000	43,512
RAISINS, UNSWEETENED	41,400	81,530
RICE, BROWN	6,846,000	3,840,514
SALSA, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM.....	5,081,004	2,470,629
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM.....	5,650,224	2,259,210
SPINACH, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	798,840	719,203
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, DICED, FROZEN, NOT SALT ADDED.....	831,600	654,862
STRAWBERRIES, CUPS, FROZEN.....	48,081,600	66,441,549
STRAWBERRIES, SLICED, FROZEN.....	5,702,400	5,800,389
STRAWBERRIES, SLICED, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	4,752,000	5,622,761
STRAWBERRIES, WHOLE, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	4,158,000	4,728,312

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	Pounds	Value
SUNFLOWER SEED BUTTER.....	702,240	1,360,818
SWEET POTATOES, FRESH	40,000	14,970
SWEET POTATOES, BULK FOR PROCESSING	10,246,180	1,619,301
SWEET POTATOES, CANNED, LIGHT SYRUP.....	1,145,016	682,340
SWEET POTATOES, CRINKLE FRIES, FROZEN, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,504,800	2,127,998
SWEET POTATOES, FROZEN, CHUNKS, NO SALT ADDED.....	435,600	307,916
TOMATO PASTE, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	12,927,600	5,438,582
TOMATO PASTE, CANNED/POUCH, NO SALT ADDED.....	1,330,513	733,599
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM	3,035,628	1,173,063
TOMATOES, CANNED, DICED, NO SALT ADDED.....	3,802,356	1,379,615
TORTILLAS, WHOLE GRAIN- RICH.....	1,134,000	849,289
TUNA, CANNED.....	2,046,662	4,746,228
TURKEY HAM, FROZEN	2,400,000	5,808,400
TURKEY, BULK FOR PROCESSING	4,680,000	5,868,871
TURKEY, DELI BREAST, FROZEN.....	6,360,000	17,489,200
TURKEY, ROAST, FROZEN.....	6,200,000	12,782,400
TURKEY, TACO FILLING , COOKED, FROZEN	3,431,400	5,122,494
YOGURT, CUP, BLUEBERRY, HIGH PROTEIN.....	553,194	679,260
YOGURT, CUP, STRAWBERRY, HIGH PROTEIN	666,774	822,248
YOGURT, CUP, PEACH, HIGH PROTEIN	129,462	190,869
YOGURT, CUP, VANILLA, HIGH PROTEIN.....	343,164	420,605
YOGURT, TUB VANILLA, HIGH PROTEIN.....	113,076	141,345
Subtotal.....	1,302,645,247	1,562,491,592
Anticipated Adjustment	0	62,168,444
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses.....	0	13,408,440
Total Commodity Entitlement	1,302,645,247	1,638,068,476
Bonus Commodities.....	0	0
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	2,465,136	1,762,572
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	2,610,144	2,094,379
Total Bonus Commodities	5,075,280	3,856,951
Cash In-Lieu of Commodities.....	0	167,717,033
Grand Total ^a	1,307,720,527	1,809,642,460

^a Source: WBSCM sales orders and contract information

Table FNS-4. Child Nutrition Lunches Served for Fiscal Year 2018

State or Territory	Paid Lunches	Reduced Price Lunches	Free Lunches	Total
Alabama.....	19,164	4,451	57,982	81,596
Alaska.....	1,915	458	6,382	8,755
Arizona.....	22,823	7,646	72,003	102,472
Arkansas.....	11,681	4,708	35,276	51,666
California.....	99,954	51,170	388,531	539,655
Colorado.....	21,292	6,324	32,035	59,651
Connecticut.....	16,078	2,382	27,682	46,143
Delaware.....	4,868	424	9,934	15,226
District of Columbia.....	1,412	112	7,552	9,076
Florida.....	37,390	9,055	251,259	297,703
Georgia.....	44,584	10,936	141,980	197,501
Hawaii.....	6,273	1,557	9,598	17,427
Idaho.....	8,794	2,465	12,687	23,945
Illinois.....	35,760	4,442	130,489	170,690
Indiana.....	45,097	9,559	64,789	119,445
Iowa.....	30,496	3,951	26,268	60,715
Kansas.....	21,535	5,253	24,764	51,552
Kentucky.....	13,178	1,128	66,974	81,281
Louisiana.....	13,727	1,984	69,293	85,004
Maine.....	5,873	1,149	8,379	15,401
Maryland.....	21,377	5,617	46,343	73,337
Massachusetts.....	29,327	3,836	52,307	85,470
Michigan.....	35,124	6,521	82,940	124,585
Minnesota.....	50,402	9,217	36,737	96,356
Mississippi.....	8,962	3,529	46,753	59,245
Missouri.....	33,316	6,873	53,205	93,395
Montana.....	5,018	933	7,197	13,149
Nebraska.....	18,509	3,835	17,107	39,451
Nevada.....	7,091	3,323	27,235	37,649
New Hampshire.....	7,256	812	4,839	12,907
New Jersey.....	38,289	7,395	66,713	112,398
New Mexico.....	4,985	1,094	28,457	34,536
New York.....	47,654	6,722	218,204	272,580
North Carolina.....	28,113	7,354	102,563	138,031
North Dakota.....	9,604	1,014	4,608	15,225
Ohio.....	50,903	8,718	93,783	153,404
Oklahoma.....	17,351	4,947	43,324	65,622
Oregon.....	12,468	3,221	30,427	46,116
Pennsylvania.....	53,168	5,919	107,907	166,993
Rhode Island.....	4,057	861	7,918	12,837
South Carolina.....	16,874	3,498	57,123	77,495

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State or Territory	Paid Lunches	Reduced Price Lunches	Free Lunches	Total
South Dakota	8,725	1,279	6,580	16,584
Tennessee.....	22,413	4,656	77,874	104,943
Texas.....	112,262	29,428	411,663	553,353
Utah	27,289	5,242	22,599	55,129
Vermont	3,113	642	3,812	7,567
Virginia.....	36,798	7,693	62,093	106,585
Washington	26,696	8,194	49,592	84,482
West Virginia.....	6,356	517	22,995	29,868
Wisconsin	34,702	4,567	43,157	82,426
Wyoming	3,692	926	3,218	7,837
Guam	266	20	2,594	2,880
Puerto Rico	1,272	648	27,651	29,571
Virgin Islands	77	38	613	728
DOD Army/AF/USMC/Navy	1,935	489	702	3,126
TOTAL ^a.....	1,247,339	288,731	3,314,692	4,850,762

^a These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding

Table FNS-5. Child Nutrition School Breakfast Program Schools, Participation and Enrollment for Fiscal Year 2018

State or Territory	Number of Schools and Institutions	Enrollment	Peak Participation
Alabama	1,435	737	277
Alaska	402	106	28
Arizona.....	1,704	1,041	317
Arkansas.....	1,094	480	196
California	8,953	5,834	1,725
Colorado.....	1,494	735	184
Connecticut.....	879	450	111
Delaware	250	149	56
District of Columbia.....	228	85	39
Florida.....	3,866	2,931	1,004
Georgia.....	2,336	1,593	658
Hawaii	283	178	34
Idaho	663	301	77
Illinois	3,393	1,595	458
Indiana	1,939	1,064	288
Iowa	1,281	528	106
Kansas	1,267	502	121
Kentucky.....	1,269	710	324
Louisiana.....	1,446	758	302
Maine	591	181	52
Maryland.....	1,462	932	278
Massachusetts.....	1,834	837	215
Michigan	3,012	1,430	410
Minnesota.....	1,753	833	243
Mississippi	853	468	210
Missouri	2,302	921	296
Montana	719	149	39
Nebraska	767	309	82
Nevada	578	441	138
New Hampshire.....	400	171	21
New Jersey.....	2,164	1,070	330
New Mexico.....	823	318	150
New York.....	5,571	2,737	797
North Carolina.....	2,538	1,522	478
North Dakota.....	364	113	28
Ohio	3,247	1,634	470
Oklahoma.....	1,816	672	237
Oregon	1,270	582	152
Pennsylvania	3,082	1,641	417
Rhode Island	357	156	35

State or Territory	Number of Schools and Institutions	Enrollment	Peak Participation
South Carolina.....	1,188	787	276
South Dakota.....	585	138	30
Tennessee.....	1,765	976	404
Texas.....	8,313	5,379	1,964
Utah.....	858	598	88
Vermont.....	318	84	26
Virginia.....	1,914	1,277	360
Washington.....	1,963	1,067	204
West Virginia.....	722	277	163
Wisconsin.....	1,992	752	192
Wyoming.....	300	93	17
Guam.....	43	30	10
Puerto Rico.....	1,356	371	24
TOTAL ^a	91,003	48,722	15,141

^a These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding

Table FNS-6. Child Nutrition School Breakfast Program Breakfasts Served Fiscal Year 2018

State Or Territory	Paid	Reduced Price	Reduced Price	Free	Free Severe	Total
		Regular	Severe Need	Regular	Need	
Alabama.....	6,430	89	1,758	456	35,011	43,744
Alaska.....	624	6	164	41	3,596	4,431
Arizona.....	7,418	99	3,201	804	40,374	51,896
Arkansas.....	5,292	45	2,598	325	23,334	31,594
California.....	43,060	521	24,223	2,909	218,656	289,368
Colorado.....	6,343	193	3,004	732	18,893	29,165
Connecticut.....	2,539	115	530	877	14,065	18,126
Delaware.....	1,755	25	154	174	6,128	8,237
District of Columbia.....	875	9	42	45	5,226	6,197
Florida.....	14,733	92	3,866	1,238	127,279	147,208
Georgia.....	15,229	191	5,221	1,235	85,413	107,289
Hawaii.....	1,101	49	379	179	3,831	5,540
Idaho.....	3,184	65	996	340	7,169	11,755
Illinois.....	4,746	93	1,089	1,316	66,059	73,303
Indiana.....	7,968	390	2,985	2,550	31,757	45,649
Iowa.....	3,530	328	744	1,882	10,208	16,692
Kansas.....	3,344	195	1,657	727	12,517	18,441
Kentucky.....	5,175	42	441	339	43,986	49,984
Louisiana.....	3,317	59	663	813	40,155	45,006
Maine.....	2,175	46	592	232	5,041	8,086
Maryland.....	11,540	121	3,229	698	28,050	43,639
Massachusetts.....	3,996	148	841	1,199	29,093	35,277
Michigan.....	10,339	176	2,594	4,794	46,736	64,639
Minnesota.....	12,423	1,094	2,932	2,877	18,301	37,627
Mississippi.....	2,618	13	1,476	335	28,451	32,892
Missouri.....	10,029	247	3,022	1,647	31,883	46,828
Montana.....	1,428	54	313	241	4,243	6,278
Nebraska.....	3,733	209	1,145	770	7,143	13,000
Nevada.....	3,470	49	1,541	331	17,067	22,459
New Hampshire.....	1,006	63	200	386	1,883	3,538
New Jersey.....	9,560	465	2,533	5,269	37,062	54,889
New Mexico.....	3,038	10	578	53	19,949	23,628
New York.....	9,460	216	2,217	5,127	114,443	131,465
North Carolina.....	10,052	126	3,441	830	59,124	73,572
North Dakota.....	1,721	246	155	883	1,576	4,581
Ohio.....	11,953	243	2,929	2,027	52,600	69,752
Oklahoma.....	6,125	144	2,138	860	24,670	33,938
Oregon.....	4,523	46	1,471	253	16,828	23,122
Pennsylvania.....	8,422	240	1,491	3,355	53,769	67,276
Rhode Island.....	1,057	12	281	102	4,316	5,769
South Carolina.....	6,078	83	1,492	595	35,978	44,227
South Dakota.....	939	133	197	518	2,775	4,562
Tennessee.....	8,936	105	2,247	1,843	49,318	62,449
Texas.....	40,485	796	13,354	7,230	259,146	321,012
Utah.....	3,334	230	1,182	1,077	8,311	14,134
Vermont.....	1,072	71	305	215	2,515	4,179
Virginia.....	10,756	343	3,345	1,884	37,318	53,646

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State Or Territory	Paid	Reduced Price Regular	Reduced Price Severe Need	Free Regular	Free Severe Need	Total
Washington.....	5,458	137	3,230	0	23,302	32,127
West Virginia.....	4,325	29	320	248	19,089	24,010
Wisconsin.....	6,678	412	1,215	2,355	21,355	32,014
Wyoming.....	752	45	277	174	1,459	2,707
Guam.....	79	0	3	0	1,538	1,620
Puerto Rico.....	360	50	222	68	10,272	10,972
Virgin Islands.....	15	0	7	0	123	145
DOD Army/AF/USMC/Navy....	5	1	0	5	0	11
TOTAL^a.....	354,602	9,010	116,229	65,466	1,868,386	2,413,693

^a These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding

Table FNS-7. Child Nutrition Child and Adult Care Centers Program Participation and Meals Served Fiscal Year 2018

STATE OR TERRITORY	Number of Centers/Homes	Participation	Paid Center Meals	Reduced Price Center Meals	Free Center Meals	Total Centers	Meals Homes	Total
Alabama	1,891	77	5,101	1,249	22,887	29,238	3,117	32,355
Alaska.....	493	11	1,479	205	1,553	3,237	878	4,115
Arizona.....	2,929	45	6,543	1,401	15,897	23,841	7,753	31,594
Arkansas.....	1,639	66	6,864	2,482	20,900	30,246	2,086	32,332
California.....	21,757	688	19,346	7,302	130,749	157,397	63,582	220,979
Colorado.....	2,015	49	5,250	823	9,090	15,162	3,438	18,601
Connecticut.....	1,176	27	1,672	548	5,615	7,835	2,737	10,572
Delaware	913	24	2,148	282	6,167	8,598	2,139	10,737
District of Columbia.....	338	35	703	233	3,708	4,643	132	4,776
Florida	6,804	342	30,575	10,230	111,042	151,847	8,549	160,396
Georgia.....	3,674	169	20,805	4,625	44,946	70,376	5,679	76,055
Hawaii	457	12	3,083	356	1,455	4,894	641	5,535
Idaho.....	437	13	1,868	243	2,788	4,900	846	5,746
Illinois	8,430	156	14,618	3,052	41,116	58,786	30,812	89,599
Indiana.....	3,107	104	7,143	1,309	14,886	23,337	14,617	37,954
Iowa.....	2,280	46	8,887	644	5,943	15,473	7,849	23,322
Kansas	3,438	54	6,016	800	4,969	11,785	11,804	23,589
Kentucky	1,717	85	8,242	1,521	17,564	27,328	1,122	28,449
Louisiana.....	9,567	101	3,819	897	17,104	21,821	28,468	50,289
Maine	948	11	963	150	1,476	2,590	3,875	6,465
Maryland	4,072	95	4,846	419	15,237	20,502	10,037	30,540
Massachusetts.....	4,771	86	4,394	1,199	19,328	24,921	13,956	38,877
Michigan	5,400	110	6,116	955	18,215	25,286	17,510	42,796
Minnesota.....	6,927	107	7,125	618	12,656	20,398	27,973	48,372
Mississippi.....	1,825	59	3,795	1,311	20,457	25,564	2,175	27,739
Missouri.....	2,488	98	9,769	1,024	19,193	29,986	6,308	36,293
Montana.....	778	15	1,666	179	2,597	4,443	2,930	7,373
Nebraska.....	2,454	45	6,290	526	6,775	13,591	9,025	22,616
Nevada.....	556	24	1,216	147	4,173	5,537	439	5,976
New Hampshire.....	279	11	1,825	167	1,853	3,846	361	4,206
New Jersey	2,021	98	5,437	2,062	33,713	41,212	1,276	42,488
New Mexico	2,546	40	3,222	672	9,667	13,561	5,550	19,111
New York	13,191	332	14,027	2,938	62,623	79,588	50,117	129,705
North Carolina.....	3,902	143	19,972	4,364	37,091	61,427	5,979	67,406
North Dakota.....	1,088	18	3,015	129	1,359	4,503	4,460	8,964
Ohio.....	4,007	123	14,130	2,295	33,961	50,386	7,596	57,982
Oklahoma	2,579	71	6,929	1,492	21,599	30,020	7,609	37,629
Oregon.....	2,664	55	1,890	203	7,532	9,625	8,811	18,435
Pennsylvania.....	5,139	168	16,674	3,756	47,468	67,899	6,698	74,596

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Rhode Island.....	448	10	1,195	269	3,139	4,603	922	5,525
South Carolina.....	1,252	61	3,688	654	13,664	18,006	2,231	20,236
South Dakota.....	671	17	2,425	146	1,915	4,485	2,371	6,857
Tennessee	3,095	107	7,346	1,549	23,433	32,328	7,455	39,782
Texas	12,388	796	42,051	12,509	147,766	202,326	22,153	224,479
Utah.....	1,887	36	3,458	441	5,583	9,482	8,414	17,896
Vermont.....	621	19	813	110	1,628	2,551	1,399	3,950
Virginia	3,658	135	9,692	1,235	16,611	27,539	7,998	35,537
Washington.....	2,985	88	10,122	1,204	16,181	27,507	7,164	34,671
West Virginia	1,503	27	2,604	258	4,887	7,749	2,790	10,539
Wisconsin.....	2,674	63	9,860	769	11,318	21,947	6,018	27,964
Wyoming.....	359	8	1,174	227	1,078	2,479	1,123	3,603
Guam.....	23	1	209	12	171	393	3	396
Puerto Rico.....	1,023	21	47	22	9,292	9,361	187	9,548
Virgin Islands	28	1	22	15	258	295	0	295
TOTAL ^a	173,312	5,201	382,169	82,228	1,112,281	1,576,678	459,164	2,035,842

^a These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding

Table FNS-8. Summer Food Service Program Sites, Participation and Meals Served Fiscal Year 2018

STATE OR TERRITORY	NUMBER OF SITES	PARTICIPATION (JULY)	TOTAL MEALS SERVED
Alabama.....	1,007	51	3,012
Alaska.....	126	4	292
Arizona.....	332	15	1,087
Arkansas.....	330	18	1,080
California.....	2,204	145	7,151
Colorado.....	552	26	1,517
Connecticut.....	525	32	1,409
Delaware.....	308	15	757
District of Columbia.....	233	13	714
Florida.....	3,558	204	14,084
Georgia.....	1,270	94	4,894
Hawaii.....	99	6	204
Idaho.....	269	20	1,154
Illinois.....	1,765	91	4,755
Indiana.....	1,295	52	2,646
Iowa.....	486	22	1,265
Kansas.....	524	29	1,427
Kentucky.....	1,928	81	3,004
Louisiana.....	528	25	2,541
Maine.....	438	15	754
Maryland.....	1,345	68	3,162
Massachusetts.....	1,094	57	2,704
Michigan.....	1,631	86	3,482
Minnesota.....	865	62	3,464
Mississippi.....	590	45	2,553
Missouri.....	769	40	4,712
Montana.....	230	13	696
Nebraska.....	192	10	889
Nevada.....	257	9	592
New Hampshire.....	173	13	324
New Jersey.....	1,426	65	5,362
New Mexico.....	675	30	1,655
New York.....	2,473	423	18,698
North Carolina.....	2,093	90	4,487
North Dakota.....	82	4	320
Ohio.....	1,650	66	3,988
Oklahoma.....	805	13	1,435
Oregon.....	775	36	1,704
Pennsylvania.....	2,310	79	4,990
Rhode Island.....	224	11	452
South Carolina.....	2,107	49	2,914

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South Dakota	94	7	518
Tennessee.....	1,343	66	5,182
Texas.....	2,803	145	10,471
Utah	67	3	200
Vermont.....	267	10	438
Virginia.....	1,296	77	3,216
Washington.....	876	45	1,877
West Virginia.....	474	10	572
Wisconsin	774	53	2,877
Wyoming	93	5	271
Puerto Rico	2,076	19	2,435
Virgin Islands	89	4	116
TOTAL ^a	49,795	2,669	150,502

^a These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding

Table FNS-9. Special Milk Participating Outlets and Obligations Fiscal Year 2018

State Or Territory	Schools	Institutions	Camps	Total	Obligations
Alabama	1	0	1	2	23
Alaska.....	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona.....	31	0	0	31	43
Arkansas.....	0	0	0	0	0
California.....	87	2	15	104	291
Colorado.....	59	0	3	62	197
Connecticut.....	47	0	5	52	98
Delaware	3	0	0	3	16
District of Columbia.....	1	0	0	1	2
Florida	4	0	2	6	14
Georgia.....	2	0	0	2	29
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho.....	46	0	5	51	71
Illinois	474	0	11	485	1,873
Indiana.....	32	0	11	43	113
Iowa.....	37	0	7	44	60
Kansas	70	0	3	73	55
Kentucky	2	0	0	2	18
Louisiana.....	0	0	0	0	0
Maine	1	0	6	7	12
Maryland	67	33	3	103	260
Massachusetts.....	63	24	18	105	185
Michigan	42	0	30	72	191
Minnesota.....	231	92	53	376	737
Mississippi.....	1	0	0	1	4
Missouri.....	137	0	5	142	424
Montana.....	8	0	0	8	6
Nebraska.....	53	0	4	57	59
Nevada.....	1	8	0	9	45
New Hampshire.....	23	2	23	48	130
New Jersey	72	0	7	79	252
New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0
New York	139	103	43	285	546
North Carolina.....	12	0	8	20	97
North Dakota.....	18	0	12	30	22
Ohio.....	92	1	8	101	359
Oklahoma	5	0	1	6	23
Oregon.....	31	0	10	41	85
Pennsylvania.....	47	16	19	82	268
Rhode Island.....	8	7	5	20	37
South Carolina.....	1	0	0	1	6
South Dakota.....	24	0	0	24	19
Tennessee	2	0	5	7	18
Texas	3	0	0	3	11
Utah.....	30	0	5	35	39
Vermont.....	5	0	3	8	26
Virginia	20	0	0	20	98
Washington.....	42	5	6	53	211
West Virginia	5	0	0	5	11
Wisconsin.....	418	128	14	560	843

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State Or Territory	Schools	Institutions	Camps	Total	Obligations
Wyoming.....	5	5	2	12	19
Anticipated Adjustment.....					287
TOTAL ^a.....	2,502	426	353	3,281	8,233

^a These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding

Table FNS-10. Special Milk Half Pints Served Fiscal Year 2018

State or Territory	Average Daily Free Served	Average Daily Paid Served	Total Average Daily	Total Free	Total Paid	Total
Alabama.....	0	1	1	3	106	110
Alaska.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona.....	0	1	1	4	204	208
Arkansas.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
California.....	0	5	5	56	1,348	1,405
Colorado.....	0	5	5	73	874	947
Connecticut.....	0	2	2	37	435	472
Delaware.....	0	1	1	0	76	76
District of Columbia.....	0	0	0	10	0	10
Florida.....	0	0	0	7	62	69
Georgia.....	1	0	1	106	29	135
Hawaii.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho.....	0	1	1	14	330	343
Illinois.....	9	42	51	1,557	7,414	8,970
Indiana.....	0	2	3	41	504	545
Iowa.....	0	1	1	8	284	292
Kansas.....	0	1	2	28	237	266
Kentucky.....	0	1	1	4	80	85
Louisiana.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maine.....	0	0	0	5	54	59
Maryland.....	0	7	7	2	1,253	1,255
Massachusetts.....	0	2	3	18	876	894
Michigan.....	0	3	4	43	878	921
Minnesota.....	0	11	11	12	3,550	3,562
Mississippi.....	0	0	0	0	18	18
Missouri.....	0	11	12	223	1,815	2,038
Montana.....	0	0	0	3	24	28
Nebraska.....	0	1	1	12	275	287
Nevada.....	0	0	0	0	215	215
New Hampshire.....	0	1	1	37	590	627
New Jersey.....	1	6	7	128	1,081	1,209
New Mexico.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
New York.....	1	10	11	924	1,670	2,594
North Carolina.....	0	2	2	0	470	470
North Dakota.....	0	0	0	1	107	108
Ohio.....	0	9	9	52	1,679	1,731
Oklahoma.....	0	0	0	0	110	110
Oregon.....	0	1	2	19	393	412
Pennsylvania.....	1	2	3	98	1,197	1,295
Rhode Island.....	0	0	0	7	173	180

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State or Territory	Average Daily Free Served	Average Daily Paid Served	Total Average Daily	Total Free	Total Paid	Total
South Carolina	0	0	0	0	31	31
South Dakota	0	0	0	54	35	89
Tennessee.....	0	0	0	0	86	86
Texas.....	0	0	0	0	55	55
Utah	0	1	1	5	183	188
Vermont.....	0	0	0	54	71	125
Virginia.....	0	4	4	0	475	475
Washington.....	0	4	4	5	1,014	1,019
West Virginia.....	0	0	0	9	44	53
Wisconsin	1	19	19	108	3,960	4,067
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	89	89
TOTAL ^a.....	16	160	176	3,767	34,456	38,222

^a These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding

ACCOUNT 2: SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-40. Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2019 Annualized Continuing Resolution.....	\$6,175,000,000
Change in Appropriation	-425,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2020.....	<u>5,570,000,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language for this item as follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets]):

For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), \$5,750,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021: Provided, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(h) (10)), not less than \$60,000,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related activities, and \$13,600,000 shall be used for infrastructure: Provided further, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in section 17 of such Act: Provided further, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act: Provided further, That upon termination of a federally mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement at 7 CFR 246.12(g) (6) at the request of a State agency.

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-41. Project Statement (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))**

Item	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Grants to States (Food & NSA).....	\$6,250,000	-	\$6,060,000	-	\$6,060,000	-	-\$400,000	(1)	-	5,660,000	-
Infrastructure Grants.....	13,600	-	13,600	-	13,600	-	-	(2)	-	13,600	-
Technical Assistance.....	400	-	400	-	400	-	-	(3)	-	\$400	-
Breastfeeding Peer Counselors.....	60,000	-	60,000	-	60,000	-	-	(4)	-	60,000	-
Program Evaluation & Monitoring.....	15,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	(5)	-	5,000	-
Federal Admin and Oversight.....	11,000	-	11,000	-	11,000	-	-	(6)	-	11,000	-
WIC Infrastructure Disaster Relief.....	-	-	14,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WIC Contingency Funds.....	-	-	25,000	-	25,000	-	-25,000	(7)	-	-	-
Subtotal.....	6,350,000	44	6,189,000	40	6,175,000	44	-425,000	-	-	5,750,000	44
Mandatory Appropriations:											
UPC Database (Direct Approp.).....	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	(8)	-	1,000	-
Subtotal.....	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Total Adjusted Approp.....	6,351,000	44	6,190,000	40	6,176,000	44	-425,000	-	-	5,751,000	44
UPC Database (Direct Approp.).....	-931	-	-934	-	-1,000	-	-	-	-	-1,000	-
Sequestration.....	-69	-	-66	-	-62	-	+62	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation.....	6,350,000	44	6,189,000	40	6,174,938	44	-424,938	-	-	5,750,000	44
Subtotal.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rescission.....	-850,000	-	-800,000	-	-800,000	-	-200,000	-	-	-1,000,000	-
Recoveries, Other (Net).....	1,072,378	-	489,520	-	1,146,322	-	-270,100	-	-	876,222	-
Bal. Available, SOY UPC Database.....	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Bal. Available, SOY Other Programs.....	249,946	-	449,426	-	249,946	-	+935,384	-	-	1,185,330	-
Bal. Available, SOY WIC Contingency.....	125,000	-	150,000	-	175,000	-	-25,000	-	-	150,000	-
Total Available.....	6,948,324	44	6,478,946	40	6,947,206	44	+15,346	-	-	6,962,552	44
Lapsing Balances.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-548,426	-	-439,946	-	-1,360,330	-	+162,778	-	-	-1,197,552	-
Total Obligations.....	6,399,898	44	6,039,000	40	5,586,876	44	+178,124	-	-	5,765,000	44

The numbered justifications items are keyed to the Change Key (Chg Key) column on the Project Statement.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants, and Children

FNS makes funds available to participating State health agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) that, in turn, distribute the funds to participating local agencies. State and local agencies use WIC funds to pay the costs of specified supplemental foods provided to WIC participants, and to pay for specified nutrition services and administration (NSA) costs, including the cost of nutrition assessments, blood tests for anemia, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and health care referrals.

- (1) A decrease of \$400,000,000 for WIC Grants to States for supplemental food, nutrition service and administration costs (\$6,060,000,000 available in FY 2019).

The funding requested will support benefits for all eligible women, infants, and children, who seek WIC benefits – currently estimated to be about 6.6 million individuals in FY 2020. The average monthly food cost per person is estimated to increase from \$42.00 in FY 2019 to \$42.75 in FY 2020. The increase in the food package cost is being driven by food inflation costs (anticipated changes in the Thrifty Food Plan are used to estimate food package inflation from the current year to the budget year).

The average nutrition services and administrative (NSA) cost per person is estimated to decrease from \$25.12 in FY 2019 to \$21.05 in FY 2020. NSA funds are used by State agencies to provide non-food benefits to Participants, including nutrition education, health screenings and referrals, and breastfeeding support; to manage the infant formula rebate system, monitor and manage relationships with retail vendors; screen applicants for nutritional risk and income eligibility; as well as a small portion for other administrative work.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE DATA**Table FNS-42. Program Performance Data thousands of dollars, staff years (SY)**

Program Performance Data	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Enacted	Increase or Decrease	2020 President's Budget
Average Participation Per Month (in millions)	7,286	6,868	6,600	-	6,600
Average Food Cost Per Person Per Month	\$41.24	\$40.85	\$42.00	\$0.75	\$42.75
Average Admin. Cost Per Person Per Month	22.47	24.00	25.12	-3.45	21.67
Total Benefit Costs	\$63.71	\$64.85	\$67.12	-\$2.70	\$64.42

(2) No Change for Infrastructure Grants (\$13,600,000 in FY 2019).

These funds are used for infrastructure for the program, for special projects to promote breastfeeding, including projects to assess the effectiveness of particular breastfeeding promotion strategies; and for special State projects of regional or national significance to improve the services of the program.

(3) No Change for Technical Assistance (\$400,000 in FY 2019).

These funds are used to provide technical assistance to State agencies which allows the on-site sharing of best practices in program integrity, technology and caseload/food funds management. In addition, these funds support the development and printing of all nutrition-related training and technical assistance materials for State and local agencies.

(4) No Change for Breastfeeding Peer Counselor (\$60,000,000 in FY 2019).

These funds are used to support breastfeeding peer counselor programs. For nearly all infants, breastfeeding is the best source of infant nutrition and immunologic protection, and it provides remarkable health benefits to mothers as well. The use of breastfeeding peer counselors has proven to be an effective method of increasing breastfeeding duration. State agencies are now implementing plans that institutionalize peer counseling as a core service in WIC.

(5) No Change for Program Evaluation and Monitoring (\$5,000,000 in FY 2019).

FNS conducts a variety of studies, evaluations, and related activities that respond to the needs of policy makers and managers and helps ensure that the WIC program effectively achieves its goals. This line supports the critical evaluations and research needed for the WIC Program, including the federal staff needed to oversee this vital work. Examples of recent WIC studies can be found on the WIC-studies FNS website.

(6) No Change for Federal Administrative Oversight (\$11,000,000 in FY 2019).

Funding in this line item is used to improve Federal oversight of the EBT implementation process and to provide other technical assistance or oversight at the State level. Section 352(d) of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 imposed a requirement that all WIC State agencies must implement EBT systems throughout the State by October 1, 2020. This is an aggressive implementation schedule and requires dedicated resources to ensure that FNS is able to provide the technical support required to assist States in meeting this Congressionally-mandated deadline. FNS is working with individual State agencies on initiatives to plan, develop and implement WIC EBT systems.

In addition, these funds enable FNS staff to provide oversight and technical assistance to States in order to improve program integrity – specifically with regard to vendor management and improper payments. FNS staff continuously seek ways to reduce and prevent errors and program abuse. In addition to implementing EBT which provides improved integrity in the retailer side of vendor management, FNS program integrity efforts include providing direct technical assistance to individual WIC State agencies to ensure the use of effective participant certification and vendor management policies such as competitive price criteria and maximum allowable reimbursement rates. Specific activities include sponsoring national, regional and state training and information conferences to facilitate the exchange of effective vendor authorization and investigation strategies, as well as strategies to identify and prevent participant abuse; performing in-depth targeted reviews of high-risk program areas; and development of model software to assist state agencies in preventing and identifying program abuse.

- (7) A decrease of \$25,000,000 for WIC Contingency Funds (\$25,000,000 in FY 2019).

The request in contingency funds is essential to ensure a stable level of program services during highly uncertain times should participation of food costs exceed estimates or in case of shutdown.

- (8) No change for UPC Database (\$1,000,000 available in FY 2019).

These funds will be used to create and maintain a database of UPC identifiers, which is necessary to support WIC EBT. This data is required so that items approved for the food packages can be correctly identified at the register.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND STAFF YEARS

Table FNS-43. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))

State/Territory/Country	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Arizona	\$144	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
California	337	2	\$262	2	\$282	2	\$282	2
Colorado	370	3	355	2	382	3	382	3
Georgia	359	2	289	2	311	2	311	2
Illinois.....	310	2	284	2	306	2	306	2
Massachusetts	448	3	288	2	310	2	310	2
Michigan.....	72	-	3	-	3	-	3	-
New Jersey.....	333	2	284	2	306	2	306	2
Tennessee.....	80	1	92	1	100	1	100	1
Texas.....	425	3	417	3	448	3	448	3
Virginia.....	18,394	25	20,349	24	20,617	27	20,617	27
Obligations.....	21,272	44	22,623	40	23,065	44	23,065	44
Total, Available	21,272	44	22,623	40	23,065	44	23,065	44

Note: The obligations provided in this table represents Federal-FNS staff costs per state. The totals are a subset of overall WIC obligations. The geographic breakdown data reports only federal administrative costs. Non-administrative costs such as grants to states and benefits are excluded.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Table FNS-44 Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

Item No.	Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$1,993	\$1,862	\$2,174	\$2,174
	Personnel Compensation, Field	2,340	2,187	2,552	2,552
11	Total personnel compensation	4,333	4,049	4,726	4,726
12	Personal benefits.....	1,408	1,359	1,493	1,493
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	5,741	5,408	6,219	6,219
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	134	135	135	135
22.0	Transportation of things.....	2	2	2	2
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	13,574	13,574	13,574	13,574
26.0	Supplies and materials	605	605	605	605
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	6,379,842	6,019,276	5,566,403	5,744,465
	Total, Other Objects.....	6,394,157	6,033,592	5,580,719	5,758,781
99.9	Total, new obligations	6,399,898	6,039,000	5,586,938	5,765,000

STATUS OF PROGRAMS**Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*****Program Mission***

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides nutritious supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, and health care referrals at no cost to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, to infants, and to children up to their fifth birthday, who are determined by health professionals to be at nutritional risk. “Low-income” is defined as at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines. For the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, this represented \$45,510 for a family of four. WIC also promotes breastfeeding as the feeding method of choice for infants, provides substance abuse education, and promotes immunization and other aspects of healthy living.

FNS makes funds available to participating State health agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) that, in turn, distribute the funds to participating local agencies. State and local agencies use WIC funds to pay for specified nutrition services and administration (NSA) costs, including the cost of nutrition assessments, blood tests for anemia, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and health care referrals.

Table FNS-45. Program Participation and Costs (thousands of dollars)

Average Monthly Participation (In Thousands)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Women	2,137.90	2,096.90	2,093.70	2,046.70	1,972.80	1,922.25	1,837.41	1,738.00	1,633.00
Infants	2,173.10	2,102.80	2,067.80	2,035.50	1,964.39	1,940.00	1,874.02	1,787.00	1,712.00
Children <5	4,864.00	4,760.90	4,746.30	4,580.60	4,321.25	4,159.07	3,979.29	3,761.00	3,522.80
Total	9,175.00	8,960.60	8,907.80	8,662.80	8,258.48	8,021.32	7,690.72	7,286.00	6,867.80
Change from Prior Year	0.60%	-2.30%	-0.60%	-2.80%	-4.67%	-2.87%	-4.12%	-5.30%	-5.70%
Food Cost Total (Million \$)	\$4,563	\$5,018	\$4,808	\$4,497	\$4,324	\$4,176	\$3,934	\$3,606	\$3,365
Avg./Person/Month	\$41.44	\$46.67	\$44.98	\$43.26	\$43.64	\$43.37	\$42.62	\$41.24	\$40.85
Change in Per Person Food Cost	-2.30%	12.60%	-3.60%	-3.80%	0.87%	-0.61%	-1.73%	-3.10%	-0.90%
Per Person Per Month Total (Food/Admin.) Cost	\$58.77	\$64.91	\$62.55	\$61.36	\$62.85	\$63.33	\$63.78	\$63.71	\$64.85

Source: Program Information Reports, November 29, 2018, National Data Bank, KD21 US FY 2018. Updates may be received in future reporting periods.

WIC FOOD PACKAGE

In FY 2018, FNS completed the evidence-based reviews for the Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months Project. These reviews will inform the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee in their efforts to expand the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) to include infants and toddlers from birth to age 2 years, as well as pregnant women, beginning with the 2020 edition. These reviews are highly relevant to WIC's population and the WIC food packages.

Nutrition Education

Nutrition education, including breastfeeding promotion and support, is integral to the success of the WIC Program and is an important part of the WIC benefit package. Statute requires that one-sixth of the amounts States spend for nutrition service and administration must go for nutrition education and breastfeeding promotion. Nutrition education is provided through individual or group counseling sessions. In addition, participants receive materials designed to help participants achieve a positive change in dietary and physical activity habits and improve health status. Participants also are counseled on the importance of WIC foods in preventing and overcoming specific nutrition risk conditions identified during their nutrition risk assessment. For pregnant and postpartum mothers, special emphasis is given to appropriate infant feeding practices, prenatal nutrition, and breastfeeding support and promotion. Program regulations require States to offer at least two nutrition education contacts for each participant during each six-month certification period, or quarterly for participants certified for a period in excess of six months. Program regulations also require clinics to promote breastfeeding to all pregnant women, unless medically contraindicated, and provide information on drug and other harmful substance abuse to all pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, and to parents or caregivers of infants and children.

In FY 2018, FNS worked to finalize content updates to the *Infant Nutrition and Feeding: A Guide for Use in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children*, was. The Guide is a resource to help WIC local agency staff promote good practices in the area of infant feeding, plan education classes and referral programs, and select and/or develop educational materials. The Guide is in final design and public release is anticipated in FY 2019.

In FY 2018, FNS launched a redesign of the WIC Works Resource System, <https://wicworks.fns.usda.gov>. The redesigned site is consistent with USDA design standards, has improved search ability and offers new features that improve the user's experience. FNS continually adds, reviews and revises the resources that the WIC Works Resource System offers. In FY 2018, FNS posted: a Social Media Toolkit for National WIC Breastfeeding Week; resources for WIC and CACFP programs that collaborate with Head Start to improve program delivery; and links to health and wellness topics such as immunizations, mental health, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Breastfeeding Promotion Efforts

Breastfeeding promotion and support is a key component of the WIC Program, and WIC supports breastfeeding by providing comprehensive, up-to-date and culturally appropriate breastfeeding information and counseling.

WIC program staff offer support, anticipatory guidance and encouragement to new mothers and the benefits of breastfeeding are explained to participants in the nutrition education information provided during pregnancy. Due to increased nutritional needs of breastfeeding women, WIC mothers who decide to breastfeed are eligible to receive WIC for a longer period of time and receive a larger food package than non-breastfeeding postpartum women.

Since 1997, WIC has recognized the *Loving Support Makes Breastfeeding Work* campaign as the Program's national breastfeeding campaign and has utilized the messages from this campaign throughout nutrition education materials, partner outreach, & staff trainings on breastfeeding. In FY 2018, FNS completed a three- and-a-half year cooperative agreement grant with Hager Sharp, Inc. to provide a comprehensive rebranding of the national breastfeeding campaign. The rebranding and refreshing of materials ensures the campaign continues to be relevant to millennial WIC moms, and remains effective among the WIC population, the general public, as well as State and local agency staff. The new campaign utilizes a social marketing approach based on extensive formative research to provide a new campaign brand, *WIC Breastfeeding Support. Learn Together. Grow Together*, key messages, original photography, graphics, videos, posters and a new mobile-friendly breastfeeding website, wicbreastfeeding.fns.usda.gov. The goal of the campaign is to equip WIC moms with the information, resources and support they need to successfully breastfeed.

The WIC Peer Counseling Program provides mother-to-mother support and addresses the barriers to breastfeeding that WIC mothers face. WIC State agencies continue to implement plans that institutionalize breastfeeding peer counseling as a core service in WIC. In FY 2018, FNS awarded nearly \$60 million in grants for breastfeeding peer counseling. As a requirement of receiving WIC peer counseling funds, WIC State and local agencies must adhere to

the peer counseling model and training protocols provided by WIC, such as the *Peer Counseling – A Journey Together* curriculum; *Peer Counseling Training for Managers*; and *Using Loving Support to Grow and Glow in WIC*.

WIC's strong policy and operational emphasis on promoting breastfeeding has resulted in a steady rise in WIC breastfeeding rates. According to the CDC, between 2009 and 2015, the percentage of all U.S. children who were breastfed increased from 76 percent to 83 percent. Over roughly the same period, from 2010 to 2016 the percentage of infants participating in WIC who were breastfed increased from 63 percent to 71 percent.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), Public Law 111-296, enacted January 5, 2010, increased emphasis on breastfeeding promotion and support in WIC. The HHFKA established the provision of breastfeeding performance bonus payments. Bonus awards are legislatively designated as "program income", so State agencies have considerable flexibility in using the funds to further the objectives of the WIC Program.

Because the WIC Breastfeeding Bonus Awards have been established to recognize accomplishments in promoting and supporting breastfeeding among WIC participants, State agencies are encouraged to use these funds on breastfeeding-related activities and items which further breastfeeding promotion and support efforts within their Program. For example, these funds may be used to hire new breastfeeding staff, train staff and community partners (e.g., local hospital staff and physicians), develop and provide participant education and promotional materials, provide breastfeeding resources for staff (e.g., relevant reference materials), and staff credentials (e.g., Internal Board Certified Lactation Consultant and Certified Lactation Counselor). While these are suggestions, it is the State agencies' discretion on how the funds are used provided the purpose meets the conditions for use as program income.

In FY 2018, awards were made to two large State agencies with greater than 1,000 infant participants (Indiana and Iowa) and twelve small State agencies with less than 1,000 infant participants (Indian Township, ME; Winnebago, NE; Inter-Tribal Council, OK; Northern Arapaho, WY; Cheyenne River, SD; Standing Rock, ND; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Ute Mountain, CO; Virgin Islands; Rosebud Sioux, SD; Acoma, Canoncita, Laguna (ACL), NM; and Wichita, Caddo, Delaware (WCD), OK). The performance bonuses, totaling \$100,000, build upon WIC's longstanding efforts to promote and support breastfeeding, and are intended to recognize and award State agencies that have demonstrated successful breastfeeding promotion and support efforts. These awards provide an opportunity to highlight successful WIC breastfeeding initiatives. Additionally, these awards encourage successful State agencies to continue their efforts and motivate other State agencies to strengthen their breastfeeding promotion and support services.

All WIC local agencies are required to implement policies and procedures to provide breastfeeding support and assistance throughout the prenatal and postpartum period. The Loving Support Award of Excellence recognizes and celebrates local agencies that provide exemplary breastfeeding programs and support services. This approach allows FNS to recognize exemplary local WIC breastfeeding programs, provide models to motivate other local agencies to strengthen their breastfeeding promotion and support activities, with the goal of ultimately increasing breastfeeding initiation and duration rates among WIC participants. The award is given at three levels of performance: Gold, Gold Premiere, and Gold Elite. As part of the celebration for National WIC Breastfeeding Week, August 1-7, 2018, WIC awarded the Loving Support Awards of Excellence to 90 WIC local agencies from all seven FNS regions.

FNS continues to collaborate with other Federal agencies and non-profit organizations to promote breastfeeding surrounding the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding (Call to Action) and the Healthy People 2020 objectives on breastfeeding. FNS partners with other member organizations to sponsor the Breastfeeding Promotion Consortium (BPC) meeting. The mission of the BPC is to be a forum for the Federal Government and breastfeeding advocacy groups to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding. The BPC comprises over 30 organizations, including professional and public health associations, government agencies, and breastfeeding advocacy groups. Additionally, FNS participates in a Federal Breastfeeding Workgroup, convened by the Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which focuses on implementation activities as well as interagency coordination of breastfeeding support efforts. The workgroup includes staff from Federal agencies that have a substantive role in breastfeeding promotion and support activities. FNS is also a government liaison to the United States Breastfeeding Committee, a national breastfeeding committee composed of representatives from relevant government departments, non-governmental organizations, and health professional associations who strategically work to support breastfeeding efforts and initiatives across the country.

Program Oversight and Monitoring

FNS works with our partners in State agencies to ensure that WIC Program resources are being used to efficiently run the program across the country. State agency compliance with WIC policy and program rules is verified through the WIC Management Evaluations (ME) process, which includes on-site reviews of State and local agency operations, as well as a thorough review of State and local agency documentation. Some items that are reviewed during the WIC ME process include: management information system (MIS) reports, financial/banking reports, internal records, redeemed food instruments, internal/external contracts, training documents, and participant and vendor files. Additionally, observation of clinic operations and on-site vendor visits are included in WIC MEs. Information gathered through the ME process provides a basis for FNS to develop strategic goals to improve service delivery and program integrity. Additionally, MEs provide the opportunity for FNS staff to target technical assistance to State agencies since any deficiencies or areas of noncompliance that are identified during the ME process are addressed through a corrective action process.

FNS regularly assesses its ME process and makes improvements, when appropriate, in order to ensure compliance with program regulations and to provide effective and efficient program management. The functional areas that are reviewed during WIC MEs include: Vendor Management; Funding and Participation; Information Systems Management; Nutrition Services; Civil Rights; Certification, Eligibility and Coordination; Food Delivery; Organization and Management; and Monitoring and Audits.

In FY 2018, FNS Regional staff completed Target Area MEs in Funding and Participation, as well as additional MEs based on assessed risk. The objective of the FY 2017-2018 Target Area ME Cycle was to conduct a national in-depth review of WIC funding and participation policy, practices, and procedures to examine how State agencies manage their funds (both food funds and nutrition services and administration (NSA) funds) as well as how they manage their caseload. FNS Regional Offices conducted 27 funding and Participation MEs in FY 2018. FNS will utilize the results of the MEs to determine where opportunities for targeted training and technical assistance to State agencies are needed.

In FY 2018, FNS held monthly meetings with the Regional Office Funding and Participation ME workgroup. The workgroup discussed the MEs, related policy, and potential solutions in order to ensure greater nationwide consistency in the conduct and documentation of WIC MEs. FNS also worked to plan and prepare for the upcoming WIC Target Area for FY 2019, which is focused on closure of MEs previously conducted.

Cost Containment and Vendor Management

In an effort to use food grants more efficiently, most WIC State agencies have implemented cost containment strategies aimed at reducing food package costs. These strategies may include using a competitive bidding process to award rebate contracts for infant formula and other WIC foods, implementing least expensive brand policies, and authorizing lower-cost foods. State agencies use savings generated by these kinds of strategies to provide benefits to more participants within the same total budget. Due to the success of cost saving measures, average per person WIC food costs have grown much more slowly than general food inflation over the last 28 years. The average monthly food cost has increased by approximately 35.9 percent from FY 1990 to FY 2018, while general food inflation, as measured by the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), has increased by 89.5 percent.

The most successful strategy has been competitively bid infant formula rebate contracts between State agencies and infant formula manufacturers. In addition, eight State agencies, including one multi-State contract, have rebate contracts for infant foods (cereal, vegetable, fruit, and meat). In FY 2018, States reported an estimated annual rebate savings of \$1.7 billion. Approximately 92 percent (46) of the geographic State agencies (excluding Mississippi) received a 93 to 107 percent discount on the wholesale cost of a 13-ounce can of milk-based liquid concentrate infant formula. Of the remaining geographic State agencies, three received discounts ranging from 81 to 88 percent and Vermont has a rebate that yields a discount of 33 percent. Six geographic State agencies implemented milk-based infant formula contracts for FY 2018 with discounts ranging from 93 to 16 percent, with a median discount of 100 percent. FNS continues to closely monitor infant formula rebates.

In FY 2018, FNS reviewed WIC rebate bid solicitations for compliance with Federal requirements and provided technical assistance to ensure competitiveness of the following State agencies' infant formula rebate contracts: Georgia, Pennsylvania, Vermont and the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO Alliance) which consists of Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Delaware, District of Columbia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Navajo Nation, Nevada, Oregon, Osage Nation, Pueblo of Isleta, Utah, U.S. Virgin Islands, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

In addition, FNS continued to work with State agencies to improve program integrity. In FY 2018, FNS:

Developed and released a toolkit to assist WIC State agencies in the development and assessment of vendor peer group systems, a critical component of WIC integrity. The toolkit includes a written lesson plan, five video trainings, and supplemental spreadsheets to facilitate understanding of vendor peer groups.

Provided targeted technical assistance to four WIC State Agencies identified as at-risk of non-compliance with federal requirements as they worked to improve their vendor management and cost containment systems. Monitored and provided technical assistance to three WIC State agencies (Georgia, Louisiana, and Puerto Rico) currently carrying out requirements of settlement agreements with FNS. Two of these agreements were revised in order to ensure all integrity measures are met.

WIC Prescreening Tool

Recently modernized, the WIC Prescreening Tool is a web-based application that helps potential WIC applicants determine if they are likely to be eligible for WIC benefits. Users complete a series of short questions to determine eligibility; those who are likely to be WIC eligible are provided with State-specific contact information and are encouraged to make certification appointments with their WIC local agencies. Additionally, users are provided with a printable summary of their responses and a list of examples of the documentation that is required at an initial certification appointment.

The WIC Prescreening Tool is accessible to all Internet users via the “Am I Eligible for WIC Benefits?” link on the WIC homepage. The tool is accessed approximately 1,000 times per day by users across the country. Currently, the WIC Prescreening Tool is available in nine different languages: English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese. Metrics gathered from the tool provide data that can be used to help inform the development of WIC initiatives and collaboration with similar programs.

State Agency Model (SAM) Project

The SAM Project is an initiative to develop model WIC management information systems (MIS) through multiple State agency consortia. It also includes the transfer of these models to other WIC State agencies in order to eliminate duplication of systems development and streamlines the MIS procurement process. The SAM Project is consistent with FNS’ technology goal to improve WIC system functionality through the replacement of automated legacy systems. For many States, this step is a necessary precursor to EBT implementation.

The three SAM systems are:

Successful Partners in Reaching Innovative Technology (SPIRIT), comprised of 17 ITOs: Acoma Canoncito & Laguna Hospital (ACL), Alaska, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Eight Northern Pueblos, Five Sandoval Pueblos, Inter-Tribal Council (ITC) of Oklahoma, Indian Township Passamaquoddy Reservation; and six geographic State agencies: Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Missouri, Montana, Muscogee Creek Nation, Osage Nation, Otoe-Missouria, Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Reservation, Pueblo of San Felipe, Santo Domingo Tribe, Wichita Caddo Delaware (WCD) Enterprises, and Zuni Pueblo; The Mountain Plains State Consortium (MPSC), comprised of nine State agencies: Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada (also hosting Inter Tribal Council of Nevada), (ITCN); North Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming; and Crossroads, comprised of three State agencies: Virginia, West Virginia and Alabama, with a fourth State agency, Rhode Island, slated to join in 2019.

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)

As required by Congress, FNS is supporting State agencies to enable them to implement EBT statewide by October 1, 2020, as required by law.

EBT systems have the potential to enhance benefit delivery and improve accountability of food benefits and vendor payment systems. FNS continues to work with individual State agencies to plan, develop, and implement WIC EBT systems. As of the end of FY 2018, 88 WIC State agencies are involved in some phase of EBT -- planning, development, or implementation or they are already operational Statewide. In FY 2018, nine EBT projects were funded.

As of October 2018, 46 WIC State agencies, delivering benefits to almost 49% of participants, have successfully implemented EBT projects Statewide. Seven State agencies (Arkansas; Cherokee; Pueblo of Isleta; New Mexico; Ohio; Texas and Wyoming) are using smart card or chip technology and 39 State agencies (American Samoa; Arizona; Chickasaw Nation; Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN); Colorado; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Connecticut; Delaware; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians;

Florida; Guam; Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona; Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; Inter-Tribal Council of Oklahoma; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Kentucky; Maryland; Massachusetts; Michigan; Montana; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Navajo Nation; Nevada; New Hampshire; North Carolina; Oklahoma; Oregon; Osage Nation; Otoe-Missouria Tribe; Dakota; Virgin Islands; Virginia; West Virginia; Wichita Caddo Delaware (WCD); Vermont; and Wisconsin) have successfully implemented EBT using magnetic stripe cards, or online technology.

Twenty-two WIC State agencies are currently in the planning phase for EBT. They include: Acoma Canoncito & Laguna (ACL); Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe; District of Columbia; Eastern Shoshone; Eight Northern Indian Pueblos, Inc.; Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos; Georgia; Indian Township Passamaquoddy Reservation; New Jersey; Northern Arapaho Nation; Omaha Nation; Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Reservation; Pueblo of San Felipe, Pueblo of Zuni; Rosebud Sioux Tribe; Santee Sioux Tribe; Santo Domingo; Seneca Nation; Standing Rock Sioux; Three Affiliated Tribes; Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; and Winnebago Tribe.

Twenty-two WIC State agencies are currently in the implementing phase for EBT: Alabama; Alaska; California; Hawaii; Idaho; Illinois; Louisiana; Maine; Minnesota; Mississippi; Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; Missouri; Nebraska; New York; North Dakota; South Dakota; Pennsylvania; Puerto Rico; Rhode Island; South Carolina; Tennessee; Utah; and Washington.

Nutrition Risk Assessment

Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA): The VENA initiative was implemented in FY 2006 with the purpose of improving the WIC nutrition assessment process and criteria and to more closely align nutrition risk determination with WIC nutrition interventions. FNS awarded a contract in FY 2018 to update the VENA Guidance to reflect current program policy, references and resources. The VENA Guidance update will be developed as a web-based, interactive document for use by State and local WIC agencies as well as FNS Headquarters and Regional Office staff.

WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria: In FY 2018, six WIC nutrition risk criteria were revised as part of the on-going cyclical review of risk criteria. The following criteria were revised: Low Maternal Weight Gain, Hyperemesis Gravidarum, Nutrient Deficiency or Disease, Alcohol and Substance Use, Possibility of Regression, and Caregiver with Limited Ability to Make Feeding Decisions and/or Prepare Food.

Optimizing WIC Service Delivery

In FY 2018, FNS participated in a variety of activities to optimize WIC services:

FNS continued participating in collaboration efforts with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Office of Head Start (OHS), to improve program coordination and service delivery to families with young children with the goal of increasing WIC participation among children one through four years of age. A Memorandum of Understanding between FNS' WIC and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Administration of Children and Families' Head Start and Child Care Development Fund Programs was released in November 2017. Collaboration efforts with other programs that serve young children, e.g., child care facilities, CACFP, Head Start and Early Head Start, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will continue in FY 2019.

FNS also awarded WIC Special Project grants in FYs 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 with the goal of testing innovative ideas to improve WIC services. The FY 2014 grants to Massachusetts, Arizona, and Connecticut were completed and the final reports will be published in early FY 2019. The FY 2015 grant (Georgia) will be completed in FY 2019 and the final report will be available as early as June 2019. The FY 2016 grants (Georgia, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and Virginia) and FY 2017 grants (Arizona, Arkansas, South Dakota, and Texas) are underway and will be completed as early as FY 2020.

In FY 2018 FNS awarded a \$2-million cooperative agreement to the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) to establish the *Participant Research Innovation Laboratory for Enhancing WIC Services*. Through this cooperative agreement, JHU will support and evaluate local efforts to develop interactive tools, technical resources, and innovative solutions that improve customer service in WIC clinics and ultimately encourage and improve retention of eligible children in WIC. JHU will select up to five WIC local agencies as sub-grantees for this research through a national competition.

WIC STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS

FNS published six reports related to WIC during FY 2018, which are available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/wic-studies>. These include:

WIC Nutrition Services and Administration (NSA) Cost Study: The WIC Nutrition Services and Administration (NSA) Cost Study examines how program funds are expended by State and local agencies to support the management and operation of WIC. The study analyzed data from a national survey of State and local agencies, cases studies, and FY 2013 WIC administrative data (FNS-798 and FNS-798A).

WIC Eligibles and Coverage: National and State Estimates for 2015: which updates estimates on the number of women, infants, and children eligible for WIC benefits in 2015, including estimates by participant category (including children by single year of age) and coverage rates, and updated estimates in U.S. territories.

WIC Infant Toddler Feeding Practices Study 2: Second Year Report: The WIC Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study-2 (WIC ITFPS-2), also known as the “*Feeding My Baby*” Study, captures data on caregivers and their children over the first 5 years of the child’s life after WIC enrollment to address a series of research questions regarding feeding practices, associations between WIC services and those practices, and the health and nutrition outcomes of children receiving WIC. The study previously produced two reports, the Intentions to Breastfeed Report and the Infant Year Report. The current report focuses on caregivers’ employment, school, and childcare circumstances, as well as the feeding progressions, dietary intake, and weight status of children from birth through around 24 months.

WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2016: WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2016 (PC 2016) summarizes the demographic characteristics of participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nationwide in April 2016. It includes information on participant income and nutrition risk characteristics, estimates breastfeeding initiation rates for WIC infants, and describes WIC members of migrant farm-worker families. PC 2016 is the most recent in a series of reports generated from WIC State management information system data biennially since 1992.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Education Study: Phase II Final Report: Phase I of the study provided a comprehensive, nationally representative description of WIC nutrition education policies, practices, and features in 2014, based on surveys of local WIC agencies and sites and in-depth interviews with a subset of these sites (USDA, FNS, 2016). Phase II was a methodological study, conducted in six sites during 2015–2016, to test an approach to determine its feasibility for a national evaluation. The Phase II study included (1) a process evaluation that characterized the delivery of WIC nutrition education and (2) an impact evaluation that used a longitudinal, exposure-response design to assess the influence of WIC nutrition education on participants’ nutrition and physical activity attitudes and behaviors. The study was intended to determine if this approach could be used in a national evaluation study. Results indicate that a national study may not be feasible, but that other approaches may achieve similar goals on a smaller scale.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Medicaid II Feasibility Study: Final Report: The USDA Food and Nutrition Service’s (FNS) 1990 WIC Medicaid Study I (WM-I) found that prenatal WIC participation was associated with improved birth outcomes and savings in Medicaid costs. A 2003 study by Buescher, et al., found that WIC participation during childhood was associated with increased health care utilization and Medicaid costs, and concluded that WIC enhanced children’s linkages to the health care system. Since these studies, much has changed in the populations and policies that govern WIC and Medicaid, including changes to WIC food packages (implemented in 2009) and increased Medicaid enrollment in managed care, making a new study that would yield comparable findings challenging. This study assessed the feasibility of replicating and potentially expanding the two previous studies under the 2010 policy and participation environments. Though replication of prior study approaches was not feasible, the findings in Missouri and Oklahoma provided useful insights on WIC impacts in those States.

WIC PARTICIPATION AND PROGRAM FINANCING FY 2018**Table FNS- 46. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) Participation and Program Financing**

STATE OR TERRITORY	AVERAGE MONTHLY PARTICIPATION				PROGRAM GRANT 2/
	WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN	TOTAL	(000)
Alabama	29,344	32,944	58,317	120,605	\$100,067
Alaska	3,965	3,924	9,199	17,089	19,773
Arizona ^L	33,874	38,093	77,546	149,513	126,445
Arkansas.....	19,160	21,609	32,838	73,606	61,905
California	224,100	213,956	571,813	1,009,868	944,558
Colorado ^L	20,567	20,163	44,528	85,258	63,942
Connecticut	10,768	12,569	23,959	47,296	41,808
Delaware	3,983	4,715	8,004	16,701	14,352
District of Columbia.....	3,219	3,822	5,381	12,423	13,013
Florida	109,749	112,977	226,431	449,157	352,473
Georgia.....	55,457	60,980	101,137	217,574	191,153
Hawaii.....	6,138	6,553	13,424	26,115	27,516
Idaho	7,828	7,967	17,922	33,717	25,356
Illinois	47,908	56,841	94,611	199,360	198,865
Indiana	34,149	36,977	72,516	143,643	100,649
Iowa	13,886	14,535	31,828	60,249	39,108
Kansas.....	11,768	12,437	26,384	50,589	40,533
Kentucky.....	23,873	27,563	50,307	101,743	86,026
Louisiana.....	29,151	33,547	49,665	112,362	113,004
Maine ^L	3,996	4,309	10,018	18,323	15,277
Maryland.....	30,910	31,328	66,297	128,535	103,479
Massachusetts.....	23,840	24,218	60,573	108,631	75,626
Michigan	46,266	53,973	113,725	213,964	162,441
Minnesota.....	23,719	24,206	58,021	105,946	89,260
Mississippi ^L	20,351	24,326	40,569	85,246	75,166
Missouri	29,253	32,000	53,070	114,323	81,148
Montana	3,661	4,054	8,966	16,682	14,337
Nebraska ^L	8,145	8,639	19,051	35,835	30,044
Nevada ^L	14,186	16,224	32,090	62,500	49,387
New Hampshire.....	2,623	2,818	6,891	12,332	9,223
New Jersey	33,244	33,770	74,545	141,559	139,011
New Mexico ^L	11,231	11,561	23,372	46,165	39,344
New York ^L	98,557	96,925	220,179	415,661	445,663
North Carolina ^L	54,380	56,553	110,786	221,719	179,207
North Dakota ^L	2,677	2,927	6,709	12,313	13,062
Ohio	49,647	68,205	91,104	208,955	148,411
Oklahoma ^L	23,395	25,555	49,583	98,532	81,496
Oregon	18,997	17,880	48,897	85,774	63,800
Pennsylvania	48,339	55,676	114,183	218,197	178,733
Rhode Island	4,041	4,701	10,201	18,943	16,795
South Carolina.....	23,990	27,581	40,582	92,153	83,396
South Dakota ^L	3,642	4,259	9,433	17,333	18,641
Tennessee.....	34,661	37,838	55,622	128,121	110,527
Texas.....	200,055	188,328	357,864	746,246	501,841
Utah.....	11,545	11,484	25,960	48,989	39,326
Vermont	2,460	2,196	6,771	11,427	12,093

2020 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

STATE OR TERRITORY	AVERAGE MONTHLY PARTICIPATION				PROGRAM GRANT 2/
	WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN	TOTAL	(000)
Virginia	28,570	31,586	53,796	113,952	81,023
Washington	32,094	30,312	82,647	145,054	125,123
West Virginia	8,374	9,532	17,507	35,412	32,857
Wisconsin.....	19,838	22,333	50,272	92,443	79,949
Wyoming ^{1/}	2,136	2,165	4,761	9,062	8,685
American Samoa	955	875	3,405	5,235	7,206
Guam.....	1,414	1,586	3,609	6,609	9,520
North Mariana Island	623	551	2,032	3,205	4,607
Puerto Rico.....	21,590	18,675	72,444	112,709	196,164
Virgin Islands.....	692	650	1,495	2,836	6,271
Anticipated adjustment.....					-24,165
TOTAL	1,632,981	1,711,967	3,522,836	6,867,785	\$5,864,520

^{1/}Includes Indian Tribal Organizations

^{2/}Excludes obligations for WIC Infrastructure grants, Technical Assistance, Breastfeeding Peer Counselors, EBT/MIS, and Federal Administrative Oversight. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Note: These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

ACCOUNT 3: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-47. Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2019 Annualized Continuing Resolution.....	\$73,419,962,000
Change in Appropriation.....	-4,350,052,000
Budget Estimate, 2020.....	<u>69,069,910,000</u>
Budget Estimate, Current Law 2020	\$69,069,910,000
Change Due to Proposed Legislation	-17,408,500,000
Net 2020 Request	<u>51,661,410,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), \$69,069,910,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through December 31, 2021, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out the program operations: Provided, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008; Provided further, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workfare requirements as may be required by law: Provided further, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2021: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading for section 28(d)(1) and section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 shall remain available through September 30, 2021: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Table FNS-48. Project Statement (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))

Item	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Discretionary Appropriations:											
FDPIR Nutrition Education	998	-	998	-	998	-	-998	14	-	0	-
Subtotal	998	-	998	-	998	-	-998	-	-	-	-
Mandatory Appropriations:											
SNAP Benefits	67,754,435	-	63,050,952	-	62,267,522	-	4,771,148	1	-	57,496,374	-
Contingency Reserve	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	-	2	-	3,000,000	-
State Administrative Costs	4,230,476	-	4,483,411	-	4,617,913	-	347,738	3	-	4,965,651	-
Nutrition Ed & Obesity Prevention Grant Prog	411,000	-	421,000	-	433,000	-	8,000	4	-	441,000	-
E&T Federal Fund 100%	110,000	-	110,000	-	123,900	-	-	5	-	123,900	-
E&T Federal Funds and Participant Costs 50%	346,018	-	366,706	-	377,707	-	12,087	5	-	389,794	-
Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring	51,337	124	51,149	119	51,149	122	2,631	6a	-2	53,780	120
Certification of SSI Recipients for SNAP Pymt Accuracy and Cooperative Services	19,591	-	19,618	-	19,618	-	554	6b	-	20,172	-
Web-Based Automation of Systems	28,894	93	25,820	89	25,820	96	8,328	6c	1	34,148	97
Retailer Integrity and Trafficking	7,500	3	7,500	3	7,500	3	-	6d	-	7,500	3
Computer Support	17,792	54	17,753	55	17,753	57	3,914	6e	-	21,667	57
Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems	10,194	-	10,208	-	10,208	-	288	6f	-	10,496	-
Nut Ed and Program Information	15,807	37	15,891	37	15,891	38	1,448	6g	1	17,339	39
Program Evaluation and Modernization FMMI	22,056	49	18,078	48	18,078	50	5,930	6h	-1	24,008	49
IT Modernization and Support	18,055	8	14,912	8	14,912	8	3,767	6i	-	18,679	8
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico ...	3,500	-	3,500	-	3,500	-	-	6j	-	3,500	-
American Samoa	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	6k	-	2,000	-
FDPIR USDA Foods in lieu of SNAP .	1,949,001	-	1,919,646	-	1,923,537	-	35,599	7	-	1,959,136	-
FDPIR Distributing Agencies Expenses and Nut. Ed	7,892	-	7,709	-	7,725	-	143	8	-	7,868	-
TEFAP Commodities	103,310	-	104,976	1	103,044	1	-24,499	9	-	78,545	1
CNMI	47,690	-	48,024	-	49,956	-	1,499	9	-	51,455	-
Community Food Project	316,000	2	287,500	2	306,083	2	14,667	10	-	320,750	2
Program Access	12,148	-	12,148	-	12,148	-	-	11	-	12,148	-
Subtotal	9,000	-	9,000	-	5,000	-	-	12	-	5,000	-
Total Adjusted Approp.	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	13	-	5,000	-
Sequestration	78,498,696	370	74,012,501	362	73,418,964	377	-4,350,052	-1	-1	69,069,910	376
Total Appropriation	78,499,694	370	74,013,499	362	73,419,962	377	-4,350,052	-1	-1	69,069,910	376
Recoveries, Other (Net)	-10,400	-	-9,563	-	-8,984	-	+8,984	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	78,489,294	370	74,003,936	362	73,410,978	377	-4,341,068	-1	-1	69,069,910	376
Total Available	16,000	-	21,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lapsing Balances	2,809,657	-	3,115,429	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	3,000,000	-
Collections from Reimbursables (Net)	81,282,951	370	77,098,365	362	76,410,978	377	-4,341,068	-1	-1	72,069,910	376
Bal. Available, EOY	4,500,344	-	4,657,218	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	3,000,000	-
Total Obligations	58,000	-	59,000	-	85,000	-	-	-	-	85,000	-
	6,067,000	-	3,072,000	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	3,000,000	-
	70,773,607	370	69,428,147	362	70,495,978	377	-4,341,068	-	-1	66,154,910	376

The numbered justifications items are keyed to the Change Key (Chg Key) column on the Project Statement.

Mandatory:

- 1) A decrease of \$4,771,148,000 for Benefit Costs (\$62,267,522,000 available in FY 2019).

This decrease reflects the net effect of estimated changes in participation. SNAP participation is expected to decrease by 5.0 percent to 37.75 million participants. Average food costs per person/per month is expected to decrease minimally to \$126.91.

	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 President's Budget
Average Participation per month (000)	42,165	40,324	40,818	37,751
Average Unemployment rate (percent)	4.5	4.0	3.6	3.6
Thrifty Food Plan (TFP)	\$640.20	\$642.10	\$654.00	\$668.80
Maximum Allotment (4 person hh) based on TFP	\$640.20	\$642.10	\$654.00	\$668.80
Overall average benefit per person per month	\$125.99	\$125.25	\$127.19	\$126.91

2) No change for Contingency Reserve (\$3,000,000,000 available in FY 2019).

The SNAP Contingency Reserve is a key element in maintaining program flexibility – the ability of the program to react to shifts in program need that were not anticipated at the time of a budget request.

3) An increase of \$347,738,000 for State Administrative Expenses (SAE) (\$4,617,913,000 available in FY 2019).

SAE are federal matching funds for such expenses as; certification, quality control, IT systems, and fraud control. This increase is based on estimated inflationary increases in state and local government costs and the expiration of the A-87 cost allocation waiver provided to agencies by OMB in association with the Affordable Care Act. FNS will be required to carry a larger portion of all state-level systems costs in the SNAP.

4) An increase of \$8,000,000 for Nutrition Education Grant Program (\$433,000,000 available in FY 2019).

These funds support the Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program, established by Section 241 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296). The funding is allocated to States through a statutory formula, and provides 100 percent Federal funding through two-year grants, which give States flexibility to target services where they can be most effective. This increase is based on estimated inflation as provided by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) per the statute.

5) An increase of \$12,087,000 for Employment and Training (\$501,607,000 available in FY 2019).

These matching funds provide grants to States to conduct employment and training (E&T) programs to assist SNAP participants to prepare for and find work. States use flexible SNAP E&T funding to serve lower-skilled, vulnerable adults who often have limited access to employment services or job training otherwise. SNAP E&T programs are designed to promote self-sufficiency. The E&T grants allow State agencies to choose the components that make up their particular E&T programs and meet the specific needs of their SNAP recipients, including: job search and job search training; basic education or vocational training; job retention services, and other workforce opportunities. This increase is due to estimated inflationary increases in state and local government costs, as well as increased state investment in programs.

6) An increase of \$26,860,000 for mandatory other program costs (\$186,429,000 available in FY 2019)

The overall change consists of the following:

- a) An increase of \$2,631,000 for Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring (\$51,149,000 available in FY 2019).

This will provide resources to support compliance specialists, investigators, quality assurance and data mining experts, as well as administrative reviewers. Funding for contracts will support benefit redemption activity, as well as most of the systems development and maintenance associated with retailer management. The increase is due to estimated inflation (Federal costs).

- b) An increase of \$554,000 for Certification of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients for SNAP (\$19,618,000 available in FY 2019).

These funds are used for certifying SSI recipients for SNAP and utilizing Social Security Administration (SSA) data to ensure accurate SNAP benefit determinations. These funds are also available for data exchange and data mining efforts related to SSA and FNS data, as well as FNS oversight and technical assistance for State Agency SSA activities provided for SNAP certification and data analysis efforts. This increase is due to estimated inflation (Federal costs).

- c) An increase of \$8,328,000 for Payment Accuracy and Cooperative Services (\$25,820,000 available in FY 2019).

- This line supports a wide range of activities aimed at increasing payment accuracy and promotes integrity and efficiency in State administration of the program by promoting a State exchange of ideas and information. This line also provides funding for the Federal Quality Control (QC) system, and computer systems designed to provide states with greater access to SNAP integrity tools. These activities are a core part of USDA’s program integrity investments. The requested increase includes \$1,328,000 due to estimated inflation (Federal costs). Additional resources of \$7,000,000 are requested under this line to decrease fraud. Refer to Current Law Proposal Summaries: Improvements to SNAP income verification process and Increase Funding to Help States Implement SNAP’s Fraud Framework.
- d) No change for Web-Based Automation of Systems (\$7,500,000 available in FY 2019).
This line provides funding for IT, automation, and technology based process improvement resources to improve SNAP recipient program integrity.
- e) An increase of \$3,914,000 for Retailer Integrity and Trafficking (\$17,753,000 available in FY 2019).
This line provides funding for a “strike force” of retailer investigators, for oversight of the 254,592 retailers authorized to redeem SNAP benefits, and for other activities that promote retailer integrity efforts. The requested increase includes \$914,000 due to estimated inflation (Federal costs). Additional resources of \$3,000,000 are requested for reviews and investigations. Refer to Current Law Proposal Summaries: Review of SNAP Authorized Group Homes, Treatment Centers, and House-to-House Trade Routes, Enhance FNS SNAP Undercover Investigations and Impact, and Increase the Number of Annual Store Visits to Ensure Participating Retailers Meet SNAP Eligibility Requirements.
- f) An increase of \$288,000 for Computer Support (\$10,208,000 available in FY 2019).
This line supports the essential systems needed to administer SNAP, including the federal staff required to operate and maintain those systems. These systems include SNAP-specific systems, and FNS’ internal computer systems that support the activities of Federal staff. The increase is due to estimated inflation (Federal costs).
- g) An increase of \$1,448,000 for Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems (\$15,891,000 available in FY 2019).
This line supports efforts associated with nationwide EBT, including staff responsible for the oversight of EBT systems, and staff and systems associated with the collection and review of EBT data. Funds strengthen oversight efforts promoting integrity and efficiency in State administration of SNAP by enabling States to travel, interact, and exchange ideas and information. Funds are also available to support the participation of farmers’ markets in SNAP by providing equipment and support grants to new markets and those currently participating in the program. There is an increase of \$448,000 in estimated inflation (Federal costs). Additional resources of \$1,000,000 are requested to support retailer authorization for online benefit redemptions. Refer to Current Law Proposal Summaries: Support for Online Purchasing Retailer Technical Readiness Determinations.
- h) An increase of \$5,930,000 for Nutrition Education and Program Information (\$18,078,000 available in FY 2019).
This line supports Federal costs for SNAP nutrition education initiatives, and supports national projects, including program information and educational efforts to increase awareness of the nutrition benefits of SNAP. The requested increase includes \$930,000 due to estimated inflation (Federal costs). Additional resources of \$5,000,000 are requested for E&T improvements. Refer to Current Law Proposal: Improvement of SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) programs through national leadership activities.
- i) An increase of \$3,767,000 for Program Evaluation and Modernization (\$14,912,000 available in FY 2019).
FNS conducts a variety of studies, evaluations, and related activities that respond to the needs of policy makers and managers and help ensure that nutrition programs achieve their goals. This line supports efforts for SNAP, including the Federal staff needed to oversee this vital work. An increase of \$767,000 is due to estimated inflation (Federal costs). An additional \$3,000,000 is being requested to provide necessary information technology solutions for E&T. Refer to Current Law Proposal

- summaries: Strengthen SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) data infrastructure by investing in State and Federal SNAP E&T data systems.
- j) No change for the Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI) (\$3,500,000 available in FY 2019).
Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI) is an on-going project to enhance financial system transparency and reporting capabilities in advance of new OMB and Treasury initiatives to improve financial management and reporting government-wide. This transparency and advanced functionality will support ensuring integrity in SNAP.
- k) No change for IT Modernization and Support (\$2,000,000 available in FY 2019).
This line provides for the operations, maintenance, and enhancement costs associated with Federal systems and equipment.
- 7) An increase of \$35,599,000 for Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico (\$1,923,537,000 available in FY 2019).
Section 19(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as amended by P.L. 110-246), provides a block grant to Puerto Rico to administer NAP benefits. The increase is due to the estimated increase in the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP).
- 8) An increase of \$143,000 for American Samoa (\$7,725,000 available in FY 2019).
Section 19(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as amended by P.L. 110-246), provides a block grant to American Samoa to administer SNAP benefits. The increase is due to the estimated increase in the TFP.
- 9) A decrease of \$ 23,000,000 for Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) (\$153,000,000 available in FY 2019).
The Food and Nutrition Act of 2014 provides for an alternative program to SNAP for low-income individuals living on or near qualifying Indian reservations or service areas in Oklahoma. This line provides for the food costs and administration of this program. The program provides monthly food packages to improve nutrition as well as nutrition education for 90,000 participants. The decrease is due to reduced inventory purchases resulting from excess inventory predicted in FY 2019.
- 10) An increase of \$14,667,000 for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) (\$306,083,000 available in FY 2019).
Section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 requires the Secretary to purchase USDA Foods for distribution through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The section establishes a baseline funding level and a formula for annual adjustments based on food price inflation. The increase is due to an increase in the TFP and a change in the formula provided by The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018.
- 11) No change for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) (\$12,148,000 available in FY 2019).
The CNMI nutrition program provides a diversity of activities that allow the residents of the islands access to nutritious food. There are no changes to the funding level of this line.
- 12) No change for the Community Food Project (\$5,000,000 available in FY 2019).
Section 25 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as amended) provides \$5 million per year in grants to meet the Hunger Free Communities goals as described in House Concurrent Resolution 302, 102nd Congress, agreed to October 5, 1992.
- 13) No change for Program Access (\$5,000,000 available in FY 2019).
Program Access Grants are authorized by Section 11(t) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.
- Discretionary:**
- 14) A decrease of \$998,000 for FDPIR Nutrition Education (\$998,000 estimated in FY 2019).
This discretionary funding was supplemental to regular FDPIR administrative funding and provided small grants to tribal organizations to conduct nutrition education activities. However, the activities funded through these small grants may be funded, as appropriate, through regular FDPIR administrative funding.

FY 2020 MANDATORY CURRENT LAW PROPOSALS FOR SNAP***Table FNS-49. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Current Law Proposals***

Proposal	Amount (millions)
Improvements to SNAP income verification processes	\$2.0
Review of SNAP Authorized Group Homes, Treatment Centers, and House-to-House Trade Routes	1.0
Enhance FNS SNAP Undercover Investigations and Impact	1.0
Increase the Number of Annual Store Visits to Ensure Participating Retailers Meet SNAP Eligibility Requirements	1.0
Support for Online Purchasing Retailer Technical Readiness Determinations	1.0
Increase Funding to Help States Implement SNAP's Fraud Framework	5.0
Improvement of SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) programs through national leadership activities	5.0
Strengthen SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) data infrastructure by investing in State and Federal SNAP E&T data systems	3.0

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL

SNAP

Improvements to SNAP income verification processes

All SNAP State agencies are required to verify household income when determining eligibility and benefit levels. In order to improve the accuracy of these determinations, FNS proposes to evaluate available automated income data sources (such as the Work Number) that may be appropriate for SNAP eligibility determinations and then select the best option to pilot in several States.

Engaging in a thorough review and evaluation of existing options and practices around electronic data matching for income Verification would allow FNS to determine the most feasible approach to incorporating these methodologies into regular State operations at certification, recertification, and periodic report. While a number of States are currently engaged in electronic income verification, the efficiency and effectiveness of these strategies has not been systematically evaluated. Gathering data to assess the impact of these matches on overall cost to State and Federal governments, accuracy of information provided, ease of use, reductions in payments, and other relevant factors would allow FNS to determine how to move forward with new and improved data matching solutions that most cost-effectively meet the needs of State agencies and improve payment accuracy.

FNS would consult with SNAP State agencies, private businesses, community organizations, Federal partner agencies, and other knowledgeable stakeholders to gather this information and, based on the results, design a pilot for electronic income verification on current best practices.

Table FNS-50. Improvements to SNAP income verification processes (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$2	+\$2	0	0	0	+\$4
Outlays	+\$1.94	+\$1.94	0	0	0	+\$3.88

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL

SNAP

Review of SNAP Authorized Group Homes, Treatment Centers, and House-to-House Trade Routes

SNAP-eligible institutions and house to house trade routes both operate uniquely as SNAP authorized firms and do not lend themselves to standard oversight and monitoring practices.

SNAP-eligible group living and residential treatment institutions are authorized to accept SNAP benefits to purchase food for resident SNAP clients. These SNAP-eligible institutions are often eligible for and receive other Federal funding.

Additionally, SNAP-authorized house-to-house trade routes often operate with just-in-time inventory. Their mobility and inventory practices make them challenging to monitor in traditional ways.

FNS seeks funding to contact with financial experts to conduct reviews of currently SNAP authorized residential drug and alcohol treatment facilities, group homes for the disabled, and homeless shelters/meal providers. This financial audit would determine whether benefits are properly utilized by or on behalf of participating SNAP participants residing in such facilities and whether such facilities are utilizing more than one source of Federal funding for the same purpose. Audits would also be conducted of participating house-to-house trade routes to ensure that SNAP sales can be supported by the inventory purchased and sold.

These reviews will inform future guidance and rulemaking with respect to these participating SNAP facilities and firms, and inform policymakers whether such facilities and routes should continue to be authorized to participate as eligible entities in SNAP.

Table FNS-51. Review of SNAP Authorized Group Homes, Treatment Centers, and House-to-House Trade Routes (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$1	+\$1	0	0	0	+\$2
Outlays	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	0	0	0	+\$1.94

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL

SNAP

Enhance FNS SNAP Undercover Investigations and Impact

FNS is directly responsible for the oversight of retailers who participate in SNAP. The Agency relies on the Retailer Investigations Branch (RIB) to safeguard the integrity of SNAP by monitoring retailers authorized to accept SNAP benefits through undercover investigators. There are only 40 Federal RIB investigators to cover the geographically dispersed 260,000 SNAP retailers across the country. This equates to less than one investigator per State.

Use of contractors who are more easily deployed to any location compared to geographically based FNS staff would increase the sample pool of SNAP retailers for investigation. This model could substantially increase efficiency and enhance efforts for fraud detection and deterrence in SNAP. Increased penalties and disqualifications for noncompliant retailers would also be an outcome.

FNS will select a pilot area to test the concept in fiscal year 2019. Approximately 750 investigations will be conducted in the pilot to determine the potential of this investigations model to improve organizational efficiency and effectiveness and increase program integrity and efforts to combat trafficking fraud.

Table FNS-12. Enhance FNS SNAP Undercover Investigations and Impact (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$1	+\$1	+\$1	+\$1	+\$1	+\$10
Outlays	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$9.70

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL

SNAP

Increase the Number of Annual Store Visits to Ensure Participating Retailers Meet SNAP Eligibility Requirements

On January 17, 2018, FNS SNAP implemented new eligibility requirements for applicant and participating SNAP retailers. These requirements include an enhanced definition of staple foods, and greater depth of stock. FNS is also in the process of rulemaking to modify the definition of variety as mandated by the Food and Nutrition Act. To ensure compliance with these updated requirements, SNAP utilizes a contractor to perform the store visits. The contractor goes on-site at each store and takes photographs, records inventory, and provides information on the store layout and operational details. The current cost is approximately \$5,000,000 annually.

There are currently over 260,000 participating firms in SNAP. Close to 40,000 are supermarkets and superstores that categorically meet SNAP eligibility requirements. The remaining firms must be reviewed to determine whether they have maintained or increased stock to meet the new requirements. Currently SNAP is able to visit only a portion of these stores. Additional funding is needed to increase the number of annual visits that are possible. With this additional funding, FNS will also automate the store visit data collection and submission process to create efficiencies. With automation, system business rules could be used to determine SNAP-retailer eligibility and free up staff resources for other purposes. In addition, FNS may offer States a pilot opportunity that will allow for their participation in the SNAP retailer authorization process.

Table FNS-53. Increase the Number of Annual Store Visits to Ensure Participating Retailers Meet SNAP Eligibility Requirements (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$1	+\$1	+\$1	+\$1	+\$1	+\$10
Outlays	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$9.70

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL**SNAP*****Support for Online Purchasing Retailer Technical Readiness Determinations***

In 2019, SNAP will begin piloting online benefit redemption with a select group of pilot retailers and States. In addition to meeting standard eligibility requirements relative to stocking SNAP-eligible foods, each of the pilot retailers must meet stringent technical requirements in order to participate. After the pilot, online retailers will continue to be subject to these technical requirements. The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 mainstreams online purchasing in SNAP by adding “online entity” to the definition of retail food store, directing the Secretary or approve retail food stores to accept benefits from SNAP recipients through online transaction, and removing the requirement for an evaluation and report to Congress.

Online retailers must have adequate methods in place to ensure system and data security, as well as customer privacy, in order to prevent compromise of SNAP household privacy, identity theft and other fraud. Online retailer applications will require careful scrutiny for strong data security systems and policies and the use of industry-recommended practices. Once an applicant website has met all these criteria, FNS will need to perform end-to-end testing of the retailer’s system to ensure conformity with the specifications for online transactions.

As the Agency shifts from pilot to normal operations, the volume of potential online retailers is expected to increase significantly. FNS will need contracted technical assistance reviewing and confirming that these applicant retailers meet technical requirements. FNS will also need assistance with pre-authorization testing to certify that retailer connectivity is in place, that all required transaction types can be completed, that end-to-end testing is successful, that the retailer’s web site correctly handles sales tax, split tender, delivery fees, and has proper notifications to SNAP clients. As online shopping has inherent potential integrity issues, FNS must closely review each new authorization during the early stages of adding this functionality. Until sufficient information exists to properly regulate this area, contracted technical assistance will assist FNS with appropriate oversight.

Table FNS-54. Support for Online Purchasing Retailer Technical Readiness Determinations (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$1	+\$1	+\$1	+\$1	+\$1	+\$10
Outlays	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$0.97	+\$9.70

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL

SNAP

Increase Funding to Help States Implement SNAP’s Fraud Framework

State agencies carry primary responsibility for investigating and disqualifying participants found guilty of intentional program violations. In May 2018, FNS released the SNAP Fraud Framework. The framework is a compilation of best practices for State agencies that combines innovations in the use of data analytics with concepts and practices from private industry in order to more effectively detect potential fraud and improve program administration. It offers States the flexibility to choose techniques that best fit their needs, recognizing that fraud is not a static concept and one size does not fit all. Components of the framework include: Organizational Management, Performance Measurement, Recipient Integrity Education, Fraud Detection, Investigations and Dispositions, Analytics and Data Management, and Learning and Development.

States report to FNS that it is often difficult to obtain sufficient funding to cover start-up costs to pursue new fraud prevention initiatives and expand the use of technology. FNS proposes to create an annual competitive grant fund to help States with the initial costs of implementing components of the SNAP Fraud Framework. FNS is proposing to allow each State up to 3-years to use the grant funding in order to fully implement new technologies and analytics in a manner that can then be sustained using the current administrative reimbursement model, which funds State administrative expenses at 50 percent.

Table FNS-55. Support for Online Purchasing Retailer Technical Readiness Determinations (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$5	+\$5	+\$5	+\$5	+\$5	+\$50
Outlays	+\$4.85	+\$4.85	+\$4.85	+\$4.85	+\$4.85	+\$48.50

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL

SNAP

Improvement of SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) programs through national leadership activities

This proposal would provide funding to enhance the quality and outcomes of SNAP Employment and Training programs nationwide. States have grown their programs considerably over the last several years and are tackling new challenges, such as adopting more effective skills-based E&T programs, complying with FNS reporting requirements, and increasing the number of E&T providers. Two national projects, the SNAP to Skills Project and the Learning Academy, are extremely popular and effective among States and Stakeholders. These projects allow FNS to promote a consistent, accurate, and high-quality model of SNAP E&T.

FNS would use these funds to move to the next level in provision of technical assistance and professional development opportunities to States and E&T programs to ensure that these programs are using the most effective strategies to help SNAP participants achieve economic self-sufficiency. USDA’s priorities to support SNAP participants move toward self-sufficiency requires the development of a national technical assistance strategy to best position States to expand and strengthen SNAP E&T under a common vision. National leadership activities would include supporting successful projects such as the SNAP to Skills Project and developing other activities to promote the use of employer-driven, skills-based strategies.

Table FNS-56. Support for Online Purchasing Retailer Technical Readiness Determinations (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$5	+\$5	+\$5	+\$5	+\$5	+\$50
Outlays	+\$4.85	+\$4.85	+\$4.85	+\$4.85	+\$4.85	+\$48.50

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL

SNAP

Strengthen SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) data infrastructure by investing in State and Federal SNAP E&T data systems

FNS needs to strengthen its data infrastructure to more reliably report on SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) participation and outcomes, as required by the Food and Nutrition Act. This proposal would provide necessary information technology solutions to enable FNS to collect more accurate and reliable E&T data, analyze data more efficiently for program improvement, and reduce the complexity and overall cost to the government of collecting and analyzing data. Without this funding, FNS would continue to rely on inefficient manual processes across multiple data collection instruments and would be unable to respond timely to requests for data analysis.

In addition, the proposal would provide grants to State agencies to improve their data infrastructure for the purposes of meeting legislative and regulatory requirements as well as provide the ability to critically review and analyze program services and outcomes. Without this additional funding, State agencies might not have financial resources to develop outcome data collection and reporting systems and might rely on information reported by E&T providers without the ability to validate and analyze this data independently.

Table FNS-57. Support for Online Purchasing Retailer Technical Readiness Determinations (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$3	+\$3	+\$3	+\$3	+\$3	+\$30
Outlays	+\$2.91	+\$2.91	+\$2.91	+\$2.91	+\$2.91	+\$29.10

FY 2020 MANDATORY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR SNAP**Table FNS-58. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Mandatory Legislative Proposals**

Proposal	Amount (millions)
Work Requirements for able-bodied adults ages 18 to 65 20 hours a week	-\$4,103.0
Establish America’s Harvest Box	-11,626.0
Restrict categorical eligibility	-1,444.0
Eliminate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowance (HCSUA) link	-545.0
Cap Federal State Administrative Expenses to States	0
Standardize State Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowance (HCSUA) levels	-448.0
Eliminate the minimum benefit	-269.0
Cap allotments at 6-person household maximum	-126.0
Modify age limit definitions for certain SNAP populations	0
Eliminate SNAP nutrition education	-441.0
Increase Claims Retention Rate to fund State integrity efforts	8.0
Conduct SNAP recipient and retailer-related matches using Social Security Numbers	-4.0
Create a single SNAP EBT Transaction Gateway	10.0
Eliminate Funding for Interoperability Grants	-.5
Reduction in Savings from Interactions among proposals	1,588.0

PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*****Work Requirements for able-bodied adults ages 18 to 65 at 20 hours per week***

SNAP includes general work requirements for individuals age 16 through 59 and an additional and separate work requirement and time limit for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) age 18 through 49. Those subject to the general work requirements are required to register for work, participate in SNAP Employment and Training if assigned, participate in workfare if assigned, accept suitable employment if offered, and not voluntarily quit a job of 30 or more hours a week or reduce work effort to less than 30 hours per week. Those subject to the general work requirements who do not comply, without good cause, are subject to specified disqualification periods. In addition to the general work requirements, ABAWDs are also required to work or participate in a work program at least 20 hours a week (averaged to 80 hours a month), or participate in workfare, in order to receive SNAP for more than 3 months in a 36-month period. The 3-month ABAWD time limit does not apply to people who are already exempt from the general SNAP work requirements or who meet certain other exemption criteria, such as being pregnant or having a child in the household.

This legislative proposal would streamline the SNAP work requirements by replacing the general work requirements and ABAWD work requirement with a single work requirement. The proposed work requirement would apply to able-bodied adults age 18 to 65, unless these adults qualify for specific exemptions.

This proposal would also redefine “elderly” throughout SNAP at age 65 and over. This definition is more consistent with the starting age of retirement in other government programs.

Under the proposal, those subject to the work requirement would be required to work or participate in specific work preparation activities at least 20 hours per week, averaged to 80 hours per month, in order to continue to receive SNAP benefits. Work would be defined as unsubsidized employment. Work preparation activities would include job search (limited to 30 days), participation in SNAP Employment and Training and other qualifying work programs, job readiness activities, work experience/community service/volunteering (limited to 90 days), subsidized employment, career and technical educational training, secondary and adult and secondary basic education, on-the-job-training, apprenticeships, and workfare. Individuals would be required to provide information concerning their employment status. States would be required to provide individuals with information about services available, such as American Job Centers.

Individuals subject to the new work requirement who fail to comply would be disqualified from SNAP for 12 months, or until the individual complies with the work requirement or becomes exempt, whichever is earliest. The disqualification would not apply to an individual during the first full month of SNAP participation in which the individual would have otherwise become subject to the work requirement. This month would allow individuals time to enroll in a work program or other work preparation activities or find employment of at least 20 hours a week before the disqualification penalty would kick in.

Exemptions from the proposed work requirement include children under age 18, elderly age 65 and over, individuals with disabilities or health-related barriers to employment, individuals caring for an incapacitated family member, individuals caring for a child under the age of 6 (limited to one person exempted per SNAP household), and pregnant women.

Under this proposal, State agencies would determine whether an individual failing to meet the work requirement has good cause, based on individual hardship. When a State determines that an individual has good cause for not meeting the work requirement, the disqualification period would not be applied. Individual hardship constituting good cause would include demonstrated lack of child care or transportation, a household emergency, illness or caring for a sick family or household member, regular participation in certain full-time residential substance abuse treatment programs where work outside the program would be impossible, or other conditions as determined by the caseworker.

The proposal would save \$45 billion over the 10-year period between FY 2020-FY 2029.

Table FNS-59. Work Requirements for able-bodied adults ages 18 to 65 at 20 hours per week

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$4,103	-\$4,197	-\$4,307	-\$4,427	-\$4,550	-\$45,102

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Establish America’s Harvest Box

USDA currently purchases a wide variety of food for several nutrition assistance programs, including the National School Lunch Program, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, the Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. USDA’s large volume purchasing typically results in USDA paying approximately half of the retail cost of the food it purchases. Currently, SNAP benefits are redeemed for the retail value of the foods purchased.

With this proposal, participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would receive domestically sourced and produced food, known as USDA Foods, in lieu of a portion of their SNAP benefits. USDA would utilize a model similar to that currently used to distribute USDA Foods to other nutrition assistance programs to provide shelf-stable staple foods to SNAP households at approximately half the retail cost, resulting in significant savings to taxpayers with no loss in food for recipients. This model would also ensure that recipients receive a portion of their benefit as healthy, nutritious foods for home consumption. States would maintain the ability to provide choice to their recipients, including innovative approaches for the inclusion of fresh products.

This proposal would save \$127.8 billion over the 10-year period between FY 2020 and FY 2029. This savings includes an increase of about \$2.5 billion in administrative costs to States to provide the increased number of food boxes.

Table FNS-60. Convert Partial SNAP Allotments to USDA Food Packages (America’s Harvest Box) (millions of dollars)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$11,626	-\$11,893	-\$12,206	-\$12,547	-\$12,895	-\$127,814

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Restrict categorical eligibility

SNAP eligibility is based on financial and non-financial requirements, including national income and asset thresholds. Some low-income households are automatically or “categorically” eligible for SNAP because they receive or are authorized to receive benefits from other specified low-income assistance programs, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). States have the option of adopting a policy called Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE), in which households may become categorically eligible for SNAP because they receive a non-cash benefit or service funded by TANF.

This proposal would eliminate BBCE by restricting categorical eligibility for TANF households to those receiving TANF assistance as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services. The proposal would also continue categorical eligibility for households receiving General Assistance or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

Adopting these changes would provide for a consistent nationwide policy. Over 40 States use BBCE to align income and/or asset limits to TANF requirements, but these policies vary State to State and in the proportion of the caseload to which they apply. Standardizing this policy by limiting categorical eligibility to households receiving TANF “assistance” ensures that the program is meeting the intent of serving households most in need while maintaining important administrative streamlining for eligible households and State agencies.

This proposal would save \$30 billion over the 10-year period between FY 2020 and FY 2029.

Table FNS-2. Restrict categorical eligibility to households receiving TANF cash assistance

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$1,444	-\$2,953	-\$3,031	-\$3,116	-\$3,202	-\$30,295

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Eliminate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowance (HCSUA) link

When a State calculates a household’s eligibility and benefits for SNAP, out-of-pocket heating and cooling costs are taken into consideration. Most States opt to use a Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) in lieu of actual household utility expenses. Households with out-of-pocket heating or cooling costs qualify for the heating or cooling SUA (HCSUA). Since 1985, Federal law has required States to recognize a SNAP household’s receipt of a Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) payment as proxy for out-of-pocket heating or cooling costs.

FNS proposes to eliminate the automatic receipt of the HCSUA when a household receives LIHEAP benefits. This would target the receipt of the HCSUA for those with actual heating and/or cooling expenses and would create a single, consistent policy nationwide.

This proposal would save \$11.44 billion over the 10-year period between FY 2020 and FY 2029.

Table FNS-62. Eliminate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowance (HCSUA) link creating a single consistent nationwide policy

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$545	-\$1,115	-\$1,145	-\$1,177	-\$1,209	-\$11,441

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Cap Federal/State Administrative Expenses to States

This proposal increases accountability in administrative costs for SNAP by capping the Federal match of State administrative costs at the 50th percentile of cost per case, encouraging States to serve SNAP participants in a more efficient manner. FNS reimburses States for 50 percent of their administrative costs with Federal funds. States vary significantly in their administrative cost per case, ranging from a high of \$33.01 to a low of \$3.58 cost per case per month. This proposal would cap the Federal reimbursement of State administrative expenses at the level spent in the State with the median cost per case (\$14.78). This proposal would not cap administrative expenses related to Employment and Training, or other activities that help participants obtain and maintain employment.

This proposal is phased-in and would not go into effect until FY 2022, to provide States ample time to adjust administrative activities as necessary to implement other legislative proposals (i.e. the USDA Foods Proposal) as well as provide States above the median an opportunity to implement cost efficiencies. Additionally, the median would be adjusted in future years with inflation. Under this proposal, States would either need to lower their administrative costs or increase their share.

This proposal would save \$8.6 billion over the 10-year period between FY 2020-FY 2029.

Table FNS-63. Cap Federal/State Administrative Expenses to States on the 50th percentile

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$0	+\$0	-\$967	-\$997	-\$1,028	-\$8,633

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Standardize State Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowance (HCSUA) levels

FNS proposes to standardize State HCSUA levels based on the 80th percentile of low income household’s utility costs in the State. This would provide for a consistent approach nationally for determining HCSUA levels by eliminating the variation in HCSUA methodologies that currently exists from State to State. Furthermore, it would allow for closer alignment with actual out of pocket utility expenses for low income households.

This proposal would save \$9.4 billion over the 10-year period between FY 2020 and FY 2029.

Table FNS-64. Standardize State Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowance (HCSUA) levels based on the 80th percentile of low-income households’ utility costs in the State

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$448	-\$918	-\$942	-\$968	-\$995	-\$9,412

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Eliminate the minimum SNAP benefit

When households of 1 or 2 persons qualify for a benefit below the minimum SNAP benefit (\$16 per month in the continental US, for example), the household’s benefit is rounded up to the minimum benefit.

This proposal would eliminate rounding up to the minimum SNAP benefit level and would set benefit levels in accordance with household circumstances, consistent for the majority of SNAP participants.

The proposal would save \$2.95 billion over the 10-year period between FY 2020-FY 2029.

Table FNS-65. Eliminate the minimum SNAP benefit

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$269	-\$275	-\$282	-\$290	-\$298	-\$2,958

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Cap benefits at the 6-person maximum allotment

This proposal would create an overall limit on the monthly SNAP allotment per household; capped at the six person maximum allotment, reducing benefits and Federal costs for large households.

The proposal would save \$1.39 billion over the 10-year period between FY 2020-FY 2029.

Table FNS-66. Cap benefits at the 6-person maximum allotment

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$126	-\$129	-\$133	-\$137	-\$140	-\$1,391

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Modify age limit definitions for Elderly

This proposal aligns the definition of elderly throughout SNAP and strengthens work requirements. Current general work requirements apply to age 59, and the current definition of elderly for other provisions is 60 years old. This proposal establishes a common definition for what constitutes elderly throughout SNAP, moving the age up to 65 for general work requirements, and other provisions. This definition is more consistent with the starting age of retirement in other government programs.

This proposal is phased-in and would not go into effect until FY 2022.

The proposal would save \$567 million over the 10-year period between FY 2020-FY 2029.

Table FNS-67. Modify age limit definitions for Elderly

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$0	+\$0	-\$66	-\$68	-\$70	-\$567

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Eliminate SNAP nutrition education funding

This proposal terminates funding of the SNAP nutrition education grants, which are duplicative and ineffective. Nutrition education is widely accessible through many public, non-profit, and government programs including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). The new USDA food boxes will ensure a base of nutritious staple foods for SNAP households, which will directly encourage nutritious eating, without additional education on healthy diet choices.

This proposal would save \$4.85 billion over the 10-year period between FY 2020-FY 2029.

Table FNS-68. Eliminate SNAP nutrition education funding

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$441	-\$448	-\$458	-\$468	-\$479	-\$4,857

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Increase Claims Retention Rate to Fund State Integrity Efforts

State agencies carry primary responsibility for investigating and disqualifying those participants found guilty of intentional program violations. State agencies currently retain 35 percent of collections from recipient disqualifications. FNS proposes to increase the retention rate for claims from recipient disqualifications to 50 percent.

States report to FNS that recipient investigations are challenging and labor intensive to pursue, due to resource limitations and higher evidentiary standards. Some States have indicated at recent meetings that additional funding would incentivize further work in this area. FNS estimates that the higher incentive may increase disqualifications of recipients by States up to 10 percent annually.

Furthermore, in an August 2014 audit (GAO 14-641), GAO issued a recommendation to FNS to explore ways that Federal financial incentives can better support cost effective State anti-fraud activities. FNS further proposes to restrict funds retained by States from claims collections to SNAP State anti-fraud prevention activities.

This proposal would cost \$85 million over the 10-year period between FY 2020 and FY 2029.

Table FNS-69. Increase Claims Retention Rate to Fund State Integrity Efforts

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$8	+\$8	+\$8	+\$8	+\$9	+\$85

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Conduct SNAP Data Matching between Recipients and Store Owners

FNS conducted a pilot data match to determine the frequency of instances in which the same individual receives SNAP benefits and owns a grocery store authorized to accept SNAP benefits at the same time. In one State, FNS found that just over 200 recipients were also active storeowners, of which, approximately 56 owned stores in other States.

While it is not against the law to be both a recipient and store owner, it may be a potential indicator of fraud. A recipient may have withheld income and assets from the ownership of their store in their initial SNAP application submitted to the State agency or a recipient may be acting as a front business owner in order to circumvent a previous store disqualification.

USDA’s Office of General Counsel has concluded that FNS currently lacks sufficient authority to conduct data matches between recipients and storeowners using a social security number. FNS is requesting authority to conduct social security number data matches between recipients and storeowners to screen for potential fraudulent schemes. This would most likely require changes to both the Food and Nutrition Act and the Social Security Act.

Expanding authority to use storeowner social security number for data matches would also allow FNS to review storeowner applicants and participants against the Social Security Death Match file, and to potentially perform criminal and/or non-criminal background checks.

This proposal would save \$40 million over the 10-year period between FY 2020 to FY 2029.

Table FNS-70. Authority to Conduct SNAP Data Matching between Recipients and Store Owners

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$4	-\$4	-\$4	-\$4	-\$4	-\$40

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Create a single SNAP EBT Transaction Gateway

A single USDA EBT transaction gateway to route 8 million daily SNAP EBT transactions would allow USDA to validate transactions in real time, improves USDA’s ability to detect and fight retailer and recipient fraud at the front end using data analytics. A USDA gateway simplifies multiple specifications and other elements into a single standard. This will reduce costs in the transaction chain, which currently includes multiple players, multiple transaction routing gateways, processors, and others. Retailers, especially smaller retailers, would ultimately benefit from these lower transaction costs.

A gateway would also allow USDA to quickly bring technological enhancements, such as online purchasing, to the EBT system and to trace the flow of benefits, enhance monitoring of the store authorization process and benefit transaction process. With a gateway, FNS would be able to directly block the use of illegitimate EBT cards and better ensure that only SNAP authorized stores are able to conduct SNAP business.

A gateway will also provide substantial benefits during disasters. A real time view, as opposed to the current 2-day lag, would enable USDA to see more precisely which stores stopped transacting due to disaster and when they stopped, and when they restart, indicating resumption of normal channels of trade and community readiness for secondary response strategies like Disaster SNAP.

Table FNS-71. Create a single SNAP EBT Gateway

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	+\$10	+\$10	+\$10	+\$10	+\$10	+\$100

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Eliminate Funding for Interoperability Grants

This legislation was enacted when there were no interoperability requirements in State Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) contracts. As more States converted to EBT, interoperability became desirable, but EBT contractors charged extra for the service. Legislation was passed to require the Federal government to pay 100 percent of interoperability.

Since then, a majority of State EBT contracts specify that interoperability is a part of core services covered by the monthly case fees, of which FNS pays 50 percent. Only a few States separately capture the amount that would be claimed from the available 100 percent funding. As a result, the \$500,000 is now being spread over just a few States. This number will continue to dwindle as EBT contracts are re-procured. The amount of funds distributed fell from \$258,412 in FY 2015 to only \$192,061 in FY 2017. There is no longer any reason to maintain the administratively burdensome process of providing the incentive of 100 percent funding.

Table FNS-72. Eliminate Funding for Interoperability Grants

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$0.5	-\$0.5	-\$0.5	-\$0.5	-\$0.5	-\$5.0

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND STAFF YEARS*Table FNS-73. SNAP Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))*

State/Territory/Country	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Alabama.....	\$447	3	\$446	3	\$420	3	\$418	3
Arizona.....	298	2	242	2	228	2	227	2
Arkansas.....	298	2	303	2	285	2	284	2
California.....	4,666	31	4,665	31	4,392	32	4,380	32
Colorado.....	3,048	20	2,998	20	2,823	21	2,815	20
Delaware.....	149	1	149	1	140	1	139	1
Florida.....	1,447	10	1,507	10	1,419	10	1,415	10
Georgia.....	3,208	21	3,763	25	3,543	26	3,533	26
Hawaii.....	149	1	149	1	140	1	139	1
Illinois.....	3,926	26	3,697	24	3,480	25	3,471	25
Indiana.....	149	1	193	1	181	1	181	1
Kansas.....	-	-	127	1	119	1	119	1
Kentucky.....	298	2	303	2	285	2	284	2
Maryland.....	447	3	594	4	559	4	558	4
Massachusetts.....	3,059	20	3,405	22	3,206	23	3,197	23
Michigan.....	298	2	303	2	285	2	284	2
Minnesota.....	596	4	600	4	565	4	563	4
Missouri.....	453	3	605	4	570	4	568	4
New Hampshire.....	149	1	149	1	140	1	139	1
New Jersey.....	2,982	20	3,064	20	2,885	21	2,877	21
New York.....	2,093	14	1,871	12	1,761	13	1,756	13
North Carolina.....	712	5	600	4	565	4	563	4
Ohio.....	596	4	462	3	435	3	434	3
Oklahoma.....	149	1	149	1	140	1	139	1
Oregon.....	729	5	715	5	673	5	672	5
Pennsylvania.....	767	5	820	5	772	6	770	6
South Carolina.....	149	1	149	1	140	1	139	1
Tennessee.....	453	3	605	4	570	4	568	4
Texas.....	3,473	23	3,086	20	2,906	21	2,898	21
Utah.....	447	3	451	3	425	3	424	3
Virginia.....	157,881	128	173,344	119	172,287	125	172,234	125
Washington.....	226	2	336	2	316	2	315	2
Wisconsin.....	431	3	451	3	425	3	424	3
Obligations.....	194,173	370	210,298	362	207,076	377	206,931	376
Lapsing Balances.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available.....	194,173	370	210,298	362	207,076	377	206,931	376

*The geographic breakdown data reports only federal administrative costs. Non-administrative costs such as grants to states and benefits are excluded.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Table FNS-74 Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

Item No.	Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$18,069	\$18,861	\$18,861	\$18,861
	Personnel Compensation, Field	21,212	21,239	21,239	21,239
11	Total personnel compensation				
12	Personal benefits	39,281	40,100	40,100	40,100
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	12,405	11,415	13,450	13,450
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	51,686	51,515	53,550	53,550
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	1,545	1,545	1,545	1,545
22.0	Transportation of things	165	165	165	165
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	234	234	234	234
24.0	Printing and reproduction	678	678	678	678
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	81,990	81,990	81,990	81,990
26.0	Supplies and materials	362,057	402,100	402,100	402,100
31.0	Equipment	907	907	952	952
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	70,332,345	68,948,013	70,039,764	65,698,696
	Total, Other Objects	70,831,607	69,487,147	70,580,978	66,239,910
	Reimbursable Obligations	58,000	59,000	85,000	85,000
99.9	Total, new obligations	70,773,607	69,428,147	70,495,978	66,154,910

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) works to raise nutrition levels of low-income households by ensuring access to a healthful diet through nutrition assistance and nutrition education. SNAP provides the opportunity for low-income recipients to purchase and consume a diet consistent with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* by issuing monthly allotments of benefits redeemable for food at authorized retail stores.

Eligibility and allotment amounts are based on household size, income, and expenses. Eligibility is also based on assets, citizenship or legal immigration status, work requirements, and other factors. Benefits are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the June cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (a low-cost market basket of foods that meet the recommendations of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* for a four-person reference family). The Federal Government pays the full cost of benefits and funds approximately half of the expenses incurred by the States to administer the program.

The SNAP account also includes the Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico (NAP), American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and the funding for USDA Foods used in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

Facts In Brief

Program Participation

SNAP participation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 averaged 40.32 million persons per month, representing a 4.4 percent decrease from the average monthly participation in FY 2017.

The following table displays data on benefit costs and participation for FYs 2013 through 2018:

Table FNS-75 SNAP Benefit Costs and Participation

SNAP	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Avg. Participation (Millions)	47.66	46.54	45.92	44.22	42.16	40.32
Benefit Costs (Billions)	\$76.1	\$70.0	\$69.6	\$66.6	\$63.6	\$60.6
Average/Person/Month	\$134.50	\$126.95	\$128.17	\$125.50	\$125.99	\$125.25
% Of Population Participating	15.1	14.9	14.4	13.7	13.1	12.4
Persons Unemployed (Millions)	11.5	9.7	8.5	7.8	7.0	6.4

Note:

FY 2011- FY 2014 includes ARRA funding. ARRA funding ended 10/31/2014.

Sources: FNS National Data Bank (NDB) Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, Unemployment not Seasonally Adjusted, Annual Average (Series LNU0300000).

Department of Commerce, United States Census Bureau, Monthly Population Estimates for the United States, Resident Population (Series: PEPMONTHN)

Participation Rates among Eligible People

The most recent figures from *Trends in SNAP Participation Rates for FY 2010 to FY 2016* shows that in 2016, 85 percent of all those who were eligible for SNAP participated in the program. This indicates that the program is effectively serving those most in need of nutrition assistance.

Characteristics of SNAP Households

The most recent analysis of household characteristics data, examining 2017 indicates that:

79 percent of SNAP households included a child, an elderly (age 60 or older) person, or a person with disabilities;

The gross income of 81 percent of SNAP households was below the Federal poverty level;

38 percent of SNAP households had income at or below 50 percent of poverty;

19 percent of SNAP households had no income; and

44 percent of SNAP participants lived in households with earnings.

Program Integrity

Recent data demonstrates that the program integrity efforts of FNS and its State partners are yielding results and continue to trend in the right direction. Trafficking continues to be very low. Trafficking most typically occurs when SNAP benefits are traded for cash or are not used for their intended purpose. In spite of holding trafficking to a low

level, more work remains. In FY 2018, FNS again increased efforts to prevent and identify fraud and hold bad actors accountable for misuse of the program.

FNS is responsible for monitoring retailers participating in SNAP and holding them accountable for abiding by the rules. Efforts to support retailer integrity included:

Continued training of compliance staff;

Studied thousands of authorized stores and data and determined that over 9,000 stores warranted further investigation;

Implemented 2,662 sanctions against retailers determined to have committed violations against SNAP; and

Disqualified permanently 1,555 retailers from SNAP due to trafficking or falsifying an application.

By law, SNAP State agencies are responsible for identifying and holding accountable recipients who break the rules. FNS continued to support recipient integrity through:

Issued SNAP Fraud Framework to SNAP State agencies in May 2018. Issued a measurement tool called the Recipient Integrity Maturity Model with the SNAP Fraud Framework to establish a baseline of State anti-fraud capabilities. SNAP completed and issued two additional guidance packages along with the framework to address needs requested by States or raised by audit findings. The Insider Threat Guidance is intended to help States protect against employee fraud and the Social Media Guidance is intended to help States use social media to enhance fraud prevention. The Framework is the culmination of FNS's Business Process Reengineering (BPR) activities and data analytics efforts, from FY 2014 to FY 2017, in select State agencies (i.e., New York (Onondaga County), Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Kansas, California (Sacramento County), Texas, Arizona, Utah, and Washington). The Framework acknowledges State differences by providing a variety of techniques for States to consider as they improve their integrity efforts. FNS conducted seven training opportunities for the SNAP Fraud Framework for State and Regional staff.

Engaged States in a dialogue about client integrity through various forums.

Conducted management evaluations (ME) to assess State efforts related to client integrity using the ME tool developed in FY 2013.

Continued operation of the National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC) consortium by the five State consortium after the close of the pilot project period and evaluation. FNS is working with the lead State, Mississippi, to explore options for expansion of the NAC to interested States.

The Agricultural Research Program underwent a program review during FY 2015. Overall, the program was found to need management improvements and it achieved only half of stated program objectives. Specifically, the findings of the assessment concluded the program had a clear purpose and design but contained deficiencies in strategic planning and performance evaluation. As a result, changes were made to program management which have resulted in new performance measures that are directly linked to the agency's strategic plan, and new targets for the measures that directly link to Administration policies on improved forestry techniques. In addition, new efficiency measures were developed that show the per acre cost of implementing improved conservation practices.

Participant Characteristics

The following data describes general characteristics of SNAP recipients during an average month in the fiscal year, in terms of both individuals and households:

Table FNS-76. Characteristics of SNAP Recipients

Characteristics of SNAP Recipients	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Individuals:								
Average Number (in Millions)	40.3	44.7	46.6	47.6	46.5	45.2	43.5	41.5
% Children	46.6	45.1	44.5	44.4	44.2	44.0	44.1	43.5
% Elderly	7.9	8.5	9.0	9.3	10.1	10.6	11.8	13.1
% Disabled Nonelderly Adults	-	-	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.1	9.5

Characteristics of SNAP Recipients								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
% Female	56.4	56.5	56.4	56.2	56.2	56.7	56.7	57.2
% Nonelderly Adults Registered for Work	29.6	31.3	31.6	32.9	33.2	32.2	30.5	28.9
Average Household Size	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Households:								
Average Number (in Millions)	18.4	20.8	22.0	23.1	22.3	22.3	21.5	20.6
% Receiving Maximum Benefit	40	41	40	41	42	41	39	37
% Certified 12 Months or More	59	62	66	68	69	69	71	74
% with Earned Income	30	31	31	31	31	32	32	31
% with AFDC/TAFN Income	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	5
Average Gross Monthly Income	\$731	\$744	\$755	\$758	\$759	\$786	\$814	\$837
Average Net Monthly Income	\$336	\$338	\$343	\$344	\$335	\$354	\$374	\$384
% With Zero Gross Income	20	20	20	22	22	22	20	19
% with Zero Net Income	38	39	38	39	41	40	37	36
% with Gross Monthly Incomes Less than \$400	32	32	31	32	32	32	30	28
% Gross Income Below Poverty Guidelines	85	83	82	83	84	82	82	81
% Gross Income Below 50% of Poverty Guideline	43	43	42	43	43	42	40	38
Average Shelter Deduction	\$364	\$376	\$374	\$376	\$393	\$394	\$398	\$406
Average Shelter Expense	\$583	\$600	\$591	\$598	\$610	\$591	\$602	\$622
% at Shelter Cap (Maximum shelter deduction)	20	21	20	20	20	16	15	15

Source: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Quality Control Sample – Data may not match FY data from other sources

General Activities

Regulations Issued in FY 2018

During FY 2018, one SNAP rulemaking action was published in the *Federal Register*:

On February 23, 2017, FNS published an Advance Notice on Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on SNAP requirements and services for able-bodied adults without dependents. The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended (the Act), limits the amount of time an able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) can receive SNAP benefits. The Department of Agriculture's policy goal is to address food insecurity by providing supplemental food assistance and helping able-bodied SNAP participants move out of poverty and into work in a manner that is consistent with the structure and the intent of the Act. As described in Sections 2 and 6(d) of the Act, the goals of the program are to promote food security, self-sufficiency, well-being, and economic mobility. In this Notice, the Department sought public input to inform potential policy, program, and regulatory changes to more consistently advance this goal.

Online Purchasing Pilot

The 2014 Farm Bill mandated a pilot be conducted to test the feasibility and implications of allowing retail food stores to accept SNAP benefits through online transactions. For households to make online purchases, the Online Purchasing Pilot is required to be secure, private, easy to use, and provide similar support to that found for SNAP transactions in a retail store. Benefits cannot be used to pay for fees of any type, such as delivery, service, or convenience fees. The initial pilot will involve up to nine online retailers in up to three States. The goal is to ensure that the foundational infrastructure necessary for running SNAP transactions online operates in a safe and secure manner.

FNS began work with the EBT Host Processors on the changes necessary for online purchasing. Work included a significant update to the specification currently used to process EBT transactions as well as documenting the requirements design and test cases for online purchasing. An initial User Acceptance Test was conducted in August 2018. FNS worked with First Data which will provide third party processor services as well as the technology for

secure, encrypted online pin entry and with the eight pilot retailers to discuss and document pilot requirements for the retailers' websites. FNS anticipates the Pilot to launch in early 2019.

Grants to Improve Program Access and Eligibility Determination

FNS awarded Process and Technology Improvement Grants (PTIG) to local and State SNAP agencies and community partners. The grants are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 which provides FNS the authority to award \$5 million dollars in funds each year. The FY 2018 awarded projects focused on systems improvement, increased efficiencies in case management, and improved customer service.

For FY 2018, FNS awarded seven grants:

Alabama Department of Human Resources (AL)

The Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) will develop a process to store individual notices that were sent to clients automatically, including both the automation of adding these notices to their document management system, as well as linking them electronically to individual casefiles. DHR will also create a worker dashboard to help caseworkers track and process cases more timely and efficiently, including providing worklists to workers to prompt them on next steps in an application, the ability to query previously difficult to obtain historical data, as well as providing a variety of metrics and statistical data on the current caseload.

Broome County (NY)

Broome County will improve case processing by shifting their current document imaging processes whereby they store casefiles in their local document repository system (OnBase), to now be able to begin to use the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's new system for electronic document records, the Imaging & Electronic Document Repository (I/EDR). Clients will be able to electronically upload their documents and have the totality of their case record be in one place, and caseworker processing will become more efficient.

District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DC)

The District of Columbia Department of Human Services will create a mobile application called SNAP SENTral. The initial version of this mobile app will allow customers to take a photo of their signed mid-certification forms and upload it directly into the document management system. That report will then be able to be associated with their casefile, and a caseworker will be alerted that a customer has submitted new documents to review. This mobile app will have the capacity to be expanded to accept recertification forms and verification documents in the future.

Kansas Department for Children and Families (KS)

The Kansas Department for Children and Families will use a human centered design approach to develop, implement, and evaluate a strengths-based mobile-enabled website to improve communication between work registrants (ABAWD) and State staff. The website will include appointment reminders, goal-setting and achievement tracking tools, task lists with reminders and alerts, document submission, and a place to house and easily access job search tools, among other items.

New Mexico Human Services Department (NM)

The New Mexico Human Services Department (NM-HSD) will purchase and implement a lobby management system that includes self-service kiosks, overhead monitors, audio guidance, and associated software. These lobby management tools will announce the queue position of waiting customers, allow customers to schedule appointments online, check customers in when they arrive at the field office, automatically route customers to the appropriate staffer based on their individual needs, and capture data about field office visits. The project will be undertaken at all 33 NM-HSD field offices.

New York City Human Resources Administration (NY)

The New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) will invest grant funds to better manage the approximately 60,000 SNAP documents that they receive on a daily basis. HRA will develop and implement a customized Document Identification technology that will automatically identify, index, and extract text from 24 of the most frequently submitted types of documents by SNAP applicants and clients, including birth certificates, pay stubs, and Social Security cards. This project will reduce the number of documents that need to be manually indexed, improving the efficiency of the process.

Pitt County (NC)

Pitt County will improve lobby management, document processing and case management by: (1) purchasing a confidential self-registration system to avoid long lines and allow customers to see wait times; (2) providing scanners for SNAP staff and kiosks for client self-scanning of verification documents in order for documents to be entered into the State’s automated system more quickly; and (3) implementing recertification communications, including text messages and email reminders to help clients avoid an interruption in benefits.

State Performance Bonuses

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171, the “2002 Farm Bill”) revised the performance and liability system in SNAP. This performance system replaced the former Quality Control liabilities and Enhanced Funding system, which focused solely on error rates. This performance system awards \$48 million in bonuses each year to States based on high or improved performance for actions taken to correct errors, reduce the rates of error, and improve eligibility determinations, or for other activities that demonstrate effective administration, as determined by FNS.

Section 4021 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) requires performance bonus payments to be used only for SNAP-related expenses such as investments in technology, improvements in administration and distribution, and actions to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. States that receive such bonuses are encouraged to use the funds to improve program administration, particularly in the area of program integrity.

Beginning in FY 2012, FNS included several additional measures of performance in calculating the negative error rate, now referred to as the Case and Procedural Error Rate, reflecting the broader and more stringent scope of the measurement. Changes in the measurement may require States to make significant changes to their internal procedures and computer systems to improve the processing, clarity, and timeliness of their notices. FNS will continue working with States to assist them in this task.

Bonuses provided under this system link two of the program’s performance measures: increases in the program payment accuracy rate and increases in access and participation as measured by the Program Access Index. Bonuses for Program Access Index (PAI) for FY 2017 were announced in September 2018. Bonuses for Application Processing Timeliness, and Case and Procedural Error Rate performance in 2017 and FY 2016 were announced in September 2018. Payment Accuracy performance bonuses for 2017 were announced in June 2018 for the first time in 3 years.

The following States received awards in FY 2018 for performance in FY 2016:

Table FNS-77. SNAP Performance Bonus Awards

BEST CASE AND PROCEDURAL ERROR RATE				
State	Rate			Bonus Amount
South Dakota	2.50			\$226,917
Alabama	4.87			1,301,219
Rhode Island	7.36			401,811
Nebraska	9.26			335,846
MOST IMPROVED CASE AND PROCEDURAL ERROR RATE				
State	FY 2015	FY 2016	Change	Bonus Amount
Colorado	40.33	24.33	-16.00	\$777,149
Pennsylvania	41.68	26.60	-15.08	2,957,058
BEST APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMELINESS RATE				
State	Rate			Bonus Amount
Idaho	98.58			\$345,684
Colorado	98.18			796,094
Connecticut	97.52			856,620
	32-121			

North Dakota	97.25	178,038
Nevada	96.63	786,576
Pennsylvania	95.98	3,036,988

The following States received awards in FY 2018 for performance in FY 2017:

BEST PAYMENT ACCURACY

State	Rate	Bonus Amount
South Dakota	1.21	\$382,380
Idaho	2.38	609,414
Mississippi	3.29	1,770,996
Wyoming	3.35	196,380
Kansas	3.85	838,953
Massachusetts	4.04	3,137,604
Nebraska	4.06	639,063
Texas	4.13	11,351,221
Alabama	4.19	2,669,264
South Carolina	4.21	2,404,725

BEST CASE AND PROCEDURAL ERROR RATE

State	Rate	Bonus Amount
South Dakota	2.32	\$978,090
Nebraska	7.09	1,349,491
Idaho	7.09	1,109,647
New Hampshire	8.59	921,615

MOST IMPROVED CASE AND PROCEDURAL ERROR RATE

State	FY 2016	FY 2017	Change	Bonus Amount
Virgin Islands	33.66	14.87	-18.79	\$175,730
Montana	46.00	30.95	-15.05	1,465,427

BEST PROGRAM ACCESS INDEX

State	Rate	Bonus Amount
Hawaii	102%	\$343,527
Maryland	93.68%	1,118,449
Oregon	93.09%	1,201,408
Connecticut	92.13%	767,331
Pennsylvania	90.77%	2,798,220

MOST IMPROVED PROGRAM ACCESS INDEX

State	FY 2016	FY 2017	Change	Bonus Amount
Texas	67.26%	71.57%	4.43	\$4,768,681
Nevada	80.78%	85.07%	4.29	739,060
Montana	63.89%	67.49%	3.60	263,324

BEST APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMELINESS RATE

State	Rate	Bonus Amount
Idaho	99.66	\$307,271
Pennsylvania	98.67	2,745,766
Connecticut	97.95	754,359
State	Rate	Bonus Amount
Utah	97.78	330,179
Colorado	97.37	717,037
Alabama	97.25	1,145,388

Treasury Offset Program

FNS continues its aggressive efforts to collect debts owed to SNAP, for example by recipients who have not repaid over issuances, by collecting delinquent recipient debts through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), which is the collection mechanism by which Federal payments to individuals, such as tax refunds and Federal salary payments, are offset to pay outstanding debts. Approximately \$216 million in delinquent debt was collected through TOP in FY 2018. More than \$2.5 billion has been collected through TOP (and its predecessor, the Federal Tax Refund Offset Program) since FNS began this effort as a pilot project in 1992. These claims may not have been collected without Federal collection programs being made available to the State agencies that manage these debts.

Application Processing Timeliness

Processing applications in a timely manner remains a priority to ensure families can put food on the table as quickly as possible, thus reducing food insecurity. States are required to process all regular SNAP applications within 30 days from the date of application or within seven days for households with emergency food needs. FNS is working closely with four States that previously received warning letters as they implement corrective actions.

Management Evaluations

SNAP's Management Evaluation (ME) system plays a key role in ensuring the integrity and timely access to benefits across all State agencies administering SNAP.

State Policy Options Report

The 14th Edition of the SNAP State Options Report was published in May 2018. SNAP's statute, regulations, and waivers provide State agencies with numerous policy options that enable State agencies to adapt their programs to meet the unique needs of their State. State agencies use this flexibility to best meet the nutrition needs of low-income people across the Nation. Choosing certain options can facilitate program design goals, such as providing better support for those working or looking for work, targeting benefits to those most in need, streamlining administration and field operations, and coordinating SNAP activities with those of other programs. The State Options Report provides FNS, researchers, States, and other agencies with information about options being implemented in each of the 53 State agencies that administer SNAP. The 14th edition reflects options in effect as of October 1, 2017, and covers a range of areas including reporting, simplified methods, and modernization initiatives.

SNAP Outreach

FNS strives to provide access to nutrition assistance program benefits to every eligible person who needs and seeks assistance. FNS promotes program access through appropriate outreach to program partners and potential recipients to ensure that eligible people can make an informed choice for themselves and their families. FNS works to ensure that outreach is in line with the law and policy by:

- Focusing clearly on groups who are eligible under the law.
- Emphasizing that programs provide support during times of need, not permanently.
- Avoiding messages that disparage or demean the importance of work.

Toll Free Information Line: FNS provides a SNAP toll-free information line in English and Spanish to refer callers to their State information lines for information on application procedures and eligibility requirements. During FY 2018, FNS answered more than 51,545 calls.

Educational Materials: Informational materials in both English and Spanish are available for States and community based organizations to order or to download through the FNS website at <https://publo.gpo.gov/SNAP/SNAPPubs.php>.

State Outreach Plans: States have the option of providing outreach as part of their program operations, and FNS reimburses up to 50 percent of the allowable administrative costs for these activities. During FY 2018, 45 States had approved outreach plans and an additional State performed outreach activity.

SNAP Administration Performance Improvement Initiatives

Process Improvement Support for State Agencies: FNS continues to provide contract support in process improvement to low performing States on critical SNAP performance measures (application processing timeliness, payment accuracy and case and procedural errors). A new contract was awarded in FY 2016 for five years. The contract allows FNS to facilitate collaborative model projects with State agencies and provide direct technical assistance to State agencies to improve SNAP certification documents. In addition, the contract provides training to FNS in industry standard process improvement methodology that will help FNS assist State agencies in their own process improvement projects. In FY 2018, through the contract, FNS concluded a project with three county-administered State agencies (California, New Jersey, North Carolina).

SNAP Workflow Information Management System (SWIM): FNS continues to develop an online workflow and document management system to automate key business functions for State SNAP waiver requests and SNAP policy questions. The system will allow States to submit waiver requests (or modify existing waiver requests) and policy questions through an online portal. These requests will be automatically routed through FNS regional offices and the National Office for processing. The system will allow FNS to efficiently process, track, and manage waivers and policy questions while improving transparency and consistency.

Systems Improvement Support and Technical Assistance for States: FNS works with States throughout their integrated eligibility system development and implementation to provide oversight and technical assistance to mitigate system-rollout challenges and ensure customer service and integrity in SNAP administration. In an effort to provide more proactive technical assistance on the front end of new system development, in FY 2018, USDA awarded a five year-contract on system technical assistance. The contractor will focus on strengthening FNS' capacity to ensure that State eligibility systems fully meet SNAP certification policy requirements, provide direct technical assistance to targeted States undergoing an eligibility system upgrade, and deliver associated trainings to both FNS and State agency staff.

SNAP Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program (SNAP-Ed) - Promoting Healthier Eating Habits and Active Lifestyles

The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP and other means tested programs will make healthy food choices and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. Under current regulations, State SNAP agencies provide nutrition education and obesity prevention services to eligible individuals. States seeking Federal funding for SNAP-Ed must submit a State SNAP-Ed plan to FNS for approval each year that outlines the State's SNAP-Ed activities and a corresponding budget.

FY 2019 SNAP-Ed funding is approximately \$428 million, and State allocations are determined with 50 percent based on the State's percentage of national baseline SNAP-Ed expenditures and 50 percent based on the State's percentage of national SNAP participation for the 12-month period February 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018.

SNAP-Ed activities are to be evidence-based and provide nutrition education and obesity prevention activities through individual and group-based strategies, comprehensive multi-level interventions, and/or community and public health approaches. The FY 2019 SNAP-Ed Guidance, released in April 2018, continued policies from the previous year.

Education and Administrative Reporting System (EARS) is designed to provide uniform information about SNAP-Ed activities. EARS is not an evaluation tool, but provides FNS with national data that informs management decisions, supports policy initiatives, provides documentation for legislative, budget and other requests, and supports planning within the agency. Data collected under this reporting system include demographic characteristics of participants receiving nutrition education, topics covered, educational delivery sites, educational strategies and resource allocation. The EARS data provide a picture of SNAP-Ed trends.

The SNAP-Ed Connection is a dynamic online resource center empowers SNAP-Ed providers to excel in program delivery. It strengthens the SNAP-Ed program by providing nutrition education and obesity prevention resources and enhancing collaboration to reduce duplication of efforts. Providers use the SNAP-Ed Library on the website to showcase and share materials. Educators receive continuing education credits from SNAP-Ed Connection webinars. Directors use the SNAP-Evaluation framework and find evaluation tools so they can measure the impact of their work. Educators and the Public use the Seasonal Produce Guide to learn about local and seasonal foods to make food dollars stretch further. This project also communicates important SNAP-Ed news to SNAP-Ed personnel and the public. SNAP has updated the SNAP-Ed connection platform to improve site navigation and appearance.

The SNAP-Ed Toolkit is an online, interactive version of the SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework and a database of nutrition and physical activity interventions. The toolkit is designed to help State SNAP-Ed administrative and implementing agencies identify both evidence-based interventions and appropriate evaluation indicators to include in their SNAP-Ed Plans. In FY 2019, SNAP-Ed will have a public call for interventions to be reviewed for inclusion in the Toolkit. This peer-review process will increase the selection of interventions which State and implementing agencies may use to best fit the needs of low-income individuals in their communities.

Incentive Programs to Increase Healthy Food Purchases in SNAP

Assisting SNAP households to make more healthful food purchases remains an important priority for FNS. In FY 2018, FNS continued to work with program partners to provide flexibilities to help improve access to healthy foods for SNAP families through incentive programs.

The Food Insecurity and Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant program was established by the 2014 Farm Bill to incentivize the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP clients. The FINI grant program is collaboratively administered by the FNS and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Since 2015, NIFA's FINI program has awarded \$86.1 million to 115 organizations in 41 States and the District of Columbia. This includes the summer 2018 announcement of \$21 million to 24 FINI awardees for FY 2018.

During FY 2018, FNS provided SNAP technical assistance to FINI grantees and participating farmers' markets and retail food stores, including guidance to grantees on streamlining the process of reporting partnering retail outlets for compliance and integrity purposes. In addition to the SNAP technical assistance, the FNS FINI webpage is a one-stop resource for participants, SNAP retailers, and FINI grantees. It includes a map of participating farmers markets and retail food stores participating in FINI grant projects, as well as access to FINI-related policy guidance.

The Farm Bill also required an independent evaluation of the FINI Grant Program. In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the contractor collected program data from the grantees and also conducted a pre-incentive survey and a post-incentive survey of a sample of SNAP participants to measure the effect of the incentive on purchase and consumption of fruits and vegetables. The interim report on early evaluation findings is expected in early 2019.

Elderly Access

Ensuring seniors have access to nutritious food continues to be a priority for FNS. Potentially eligible seniors do not apply for SNAP benefits at the same rate as the general SNAP population or other vulnerable populations. In FY 2018, FNS continued operation of three demonstration projects to improve access to the elderly. All FNS approved demonstration projects must maintain cost neutrality, an offset, and include a rigorous evaluation component.

Combined Application Projects (CAPs) are a partnership between the Social Security Administration (SSA), FNS and State and local agencies to streamline application procedures for individuals receiving SSI benefits. The projects strengthen access to nutrition benefits for the elderly and people with disabilities while improving the administration of SNAP. The combination of standardized benefits or standardized shelter deductions, reduced recertification requirements and eliminating the need for SSI recipients to visit the local SNAP office has significantly increased participation among the elderly and people with disabilities.

In FY 2018, 17 States operated CAP demonstration projects: Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

Elderly Simplified Application Projects (ESAPs) are demonstration projects that support participation among the elderly and disabled population by utilizing a shorter SNAP application, waiving the recertification interview, allowing longer certification periods, and minimizing the need to provide verification. In FY 2018, Massachusetts was approved to implement a new ESAP and will begin operation in FY 2019. In addition, eight other States

continued to operate ESAPs (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Washington), and California initiated operation of a new ESAP at the start of FY 2018.

Standard Medical Deductions are demonstration projects that ease verification requirements for senior and disabled households with out-of-pocket medical expenses over \$35 per month. In FY 2018, 21 States operated Standard Medical Deduction projects (Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, and Wyoming).

SNAP Purchasing and Delivery Trial Period allowed a limited number of non-profit and governmental food purchasing and delivery services serving elderly and disabled SNAP recipients who are otherwise unable to shop for food to become SNAP authorized retailers for a one-year trial period in advance of publication of a final rule establishing eligibility and participation requirements for such services. FNS published a Request for Volunteers (RFV) soliciting eligible organizations to submit applications to participate in the trial period on February 1, 2016. Final selections were made on August 31, 2016. FNS selected, trained, and authorized five organizations to participate in the trial period, which ran for one year, until August 30, 2017. The trial period was extended for those organizations already participating. FNS is currently reviewing outcomes to help inform potential rulemaking.

Payment Accuracy

In FY 2018, FNS issued SNAP payment error rates after a 3-year pause in reporting. The FY 2017 national average certification payment error rate, announced in June 2018, was 6.3 percent. This rate is the reflection of an updated review process, which USDA undertook upon after discovering discrepancies in States' reporting that raised concerns about the presence of statistical bias in the system across the country. USDA embarked on a process to thoroughly review quality control systems in all 53 State agencies to improve the accuracy and integrity of the administration of SNAP by those agencies. With corrective action and additional monitoring implemented throughout the SNAP quality control system, FNS was able to calculate a national error rate for SNAP for FY 2017.

Regulations require State agencies to analyze data and develop corrective action plans to reduce or eliminate program deficiencies when their combined payment error rate is above the 6 percent threshold or their negative error rate exceeds one percent. Corrective action is also required when underpayments result from State agency rules, practices, or procedures.

FNS Regional Offices work directly with States to assist them in developing effective corrective action strategies to reduce payment errors. Regional Offices provide technical assistance to States through data analysis, policy interpretation, training, development and monitoring of corrective action strategies, facilitating the information exchange with and among States through annual payment accuracy conferences, State exchange funding, and special error reduction funds.

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)

FNS' role in D-SNAP operations includes analyzing and responding to State agency requests to operate D-SNAP, waiving applicable certification and issuance policies for ongoing SNAP households to ease program administration, providing on-site monitoring of State operations to ensure timely and accurate delivery of benefits, and providing operational guidance to States as needed. The D-SNAP waiver review process allows FNS to provide individualized technical assistance to help States most effectively serve the nutrition assistance needs of its disaster-impacted population. In addition, FNS assists States in planning for future disasters by reviewing D-SNAP requirements and sharing best practices through webinar and conference presentations throughout the year. FNS also requires each State agency to submit and annually review a D-SNAP plan.

The following summarizes State reported disaster assistance provided in FY 2018:

Table FNS-78. SNAP Disaster Assistance

State	Disaster	Total Households (New cases and ongoing HHs)	Total Issuance (D- SNAP benefits and supplements)
Florida (October 2017)*	Hurricane Irma	2,270,233	\$1,376,149,397
Virgin Islands (November 2017)**	Hurricanes Irma and Maria	43,144	\$28,548,492
California (November 2017)	Wildfires	10,215	\$2,245,296
California (February 2018)	Wildfires and Mudslides	19,064	\$4,037,674
North Carolina (May 2018)	Tornado	3,612	\$1,202,705
Hawaii (July 2018)**	Volcano	1,128	\$68,547

State	Disaster	Total Households (New cases and ongoing HHs)	Total Issuance (D- SNAP benefits and supplements)
California (August 2018)**	Wildfires	5,548	\$1,336,668
North Carolina (September 2018)***	Hurricane Florence	291,455	\$96,032,397
TOTAL		2,644,399	\$1,509,621,176

*Although initially listed under FY 2017, the majority of D-SNAP operations and expenditures occurred in FY 2018.

**Provisional figures not yet certified by submission of the FNS 292-B form.

***Disaster crosses fiscal years FY 2018 and FY 2019; majority of expenditures occurred in FY 2018.

Employment and Training (E&T)

Background

The Food Security Act of 1985 required States to establish an E&T Program to help able-bodied SNAP recipients find work or gain the skills, training, and experience that lead to employment. SNAP participants who are not specifically exempted by statute are subject to work requirements as a condition of eligibility. Work requirements include:

Registering for work.

Participating in a SNAP E&T program or workfare program if assigned.

Not voluntarily quitting a job or reducing work hours to less than 30 hours per week.

In addition to the work requirements, able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) must comply with additional requirements in order to receive benefits for more than three months in a 36 month period. ABAWDs in non-waived areas must meet at least one of the following requirements:

Work at least 20 hours a week;

Participate for at least 20 hours a week in qualifying education or training activities; or

Participate in workfare in order to receive benefits for more than 3 months in a 36-month period.

Eligibility and Participation

A majority of SNAP participants are exempt from work requirements due to age, disability, caregiver responsibilities, or because they are already working or participating in a work training program. In FY 2016, States reported that approximately 13.4 million participants were subject to SNAP work requirements and registered for work.

SNAP E&T is State administered and States have a great deal of flexibility in designing E&T programs that meet the needs of their participants and local economy. States submit an annual plan to FNS that details what E&T services, called components, the State plans to offer, including: job search and job search training, workfare, basic education or vocational training, and job retention services.

States use flexible E&T funding to serve lower-skilled, vulnerable adults that might not otherwise receive job training or employment services. The program fills a critical gap in workforce services for this population. In FY 2017, States served an estimated 531,631 participants through their E&T programs.

In FY 2016, FNS published new outcome reporting criteria established by Section 4022 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. The new outcome reporting requirements will help States, the Federal government, and the public understand the effectiveness of SNAP E&T programs. The national reporting measures reflect job entry, retention, earnings and educational gains and will be broken down by key characteristics that are unique to the SNAP population. States are also required to establish reporting measures for each E&T activity designed to serve more than 100 participants. States submitted their first annual reports on FY 2017 outcomes on January 1, 2018.

Funding

SNAP E&T is funded under four funding streams:

Table FNS-79. SNAP E&T Funding Streams

Budget Item	Description	2018 Obligations (Thousands)
100 Percent Federal Grant	Base funding for E&T administration, allocated annually to States based on the percentage of work registrants and ABAWDs in each State	\$95,434
ABAWD 100 Percent Federal Grant	Additional grants for States that guarantee certain activities aimed at the ABAWD population.	20,000
Federal 50 percent Administrative Grants	50 percent reimbursement for States that exceed their 100 percent Federal grant	256,852
Federal 50 percent Participation Grants	50 percent reimbursement for transportation and childcare costs to ensure successful participation in E&T programs. States are not allowed to use 100 percent grants for participant reimbursement	68,623
TOTAL		440,909

Employment and Training (E&T) Pilot Grants

The Agricultural Act of 2014 provided \$200 million for up to ten 3-year pilots. The pilot projects were designed to increase the number of work registrants who obtain unsubsidized employment, increase their earned income, and reduce their reliance on public assistance. Pilot Grantees must participate in an evaluation, maintain a robust data collection system, collaborate with State workforce boards, and maintain FY 2013 State funding levels for E&T. Grants for the ten pilot projects were awarded on March 20, 2015 for innovative approaches to provide work eligible SNAP recipients with skills needed to attain meaningful work that leads to self-sufficiency and all projects were operational as of April 2016. The projects target certain populations such as those with low skills, are in both urban and rural areas, emphasize education and training as well as rapid attachment to employment, and test both mandatory and voluntary participation in E&T. This was a one-time grant award. States will close out their grants in FY 2019.

The Agricultural Act of 2014 also provided funding for a rigorous, longitudinal evaluation of the ten pilots. FNS awarded the evaluation contract in December 2014. The contractor received OMB approval for data collection in January 2016. This initiated the recruitment and enrollment of pilot participants and evaluation data-collection activities in all ten pilot projects. FNS submitted the first annual report to Congress in FY 2016, the second in FY 2017, and will submit its third in FY 2018. FNS anticipates the availability of the interim evaluation report in 2019 and the final evaluation report in 2021.

The grantees and award amounts are as follows:

County of Fresno Department of Social Service

Fresno builds on an existing program called the Fresno Bridge Academy to offer multiple career-driven services, including education, job training, support services, subsidized and unsubsidized employment, retention services, ongoing case management, and financial incentives for milestone achievements. The pilot includes a multi-generational approach that includes adult development topics such as nutrition and health management, parenting skills, financial literacy, and services to ensure children are excelling in school. *Awarded: \$12,166,778*

Delaware Department of Health and Social Services

The Delaware Work Opportunity Networks to Develop Employment Readiness (WONDER) pilot provides intensive case management, wrap around services to address work readiness barriers, and a choice of four service tracks. Individual placement into service tracks will be based on location, interest, and work readiness for one of three sector-based tracks (construction, culinary arts, or manufacturing) or a fourth, broader job placement track. *Awarded: \$18,765,069*

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

The SNAP Works 2.0 pilot uses an integrated case management system, based on a medical HMO model, and applies a three-tiered assessment system to effectively address the needs of SNAP E&T participants with multiple barriers to employment. Depending on individual skill levels, pilot participants are offered job readiness services, basic education, occupational training, subsidized employment, and job retention services. Participants also have access to Employ Georgia's Focus Career Explorer, an innovative self-service tool that allows pilot participants to

manage their career path and interact with staff and services on-line to support successful career placement.

Awarded: \$15,011,438

Illinois Department of Human Services Job Training and Economic Development SNAP E&T Program

The Employment Opportunities, Personalized Services, Individualized Training, Career Planning (EPIC) pilot builds on a small-scale program for disadvantaged workers to offer comprehensive assessments and case management. The pilot operates in seven workforce investment areas in the northern, central and southwestern parts of the State. After a holistic assessment, case managers place participants in an accelerated and integrated adult education program, bridge program and/or technical training or a work-based learning pathway. *Awarded: \$21,857,568*

Kansas Department for Children and Families

The Generating Opportunities to Attain Lifelong Success (GOALS) program is an intensive case management program that is followed by career pathways training and work-based learning opportunities. *GOALS* is a four-phase, client-centered strategy that includes intensive case management services; job-driven training and career pathways; work-based learning; and job retention services. Participants are assigned a Career Navigator that stays with them throughout the course of their program to assist with overcoming barriers to training and employment and developing a career plan. The project is supported further by cross-system communication at the State and site levels through a Collective Impact facilitator. *Awarded: \$13,509,167*

Kentucky Department of Community Based Services

The Paths 2 Promise pilot provides team-based case management, intensive supportive services, education, training and subsidized employment to SNAP work registrants in the Eastern Kentucky Promise Zone region. The project utilizes a collective impact service model that aligns new and existing programs, such as Accelerating Opportunity Kentucky, a successful career pathway model, to better support SNAP work registrants. Services include an electronic Individual Employment Plan (IEP) used to coordinate assessment and case management across partner agencies, job readiness, soft skills, Adult Basic Education, short-term, stackable occupational training courses will be linked to internships, work experience, work study, on-the-job training and deep employer engagement through the establishment of Employer Resource Networks. *Awarded: \$19,987,148*

Mississippi Department of Human Services

The Mississippi Ethics, Discipline, Goals, Employment (EDGE) pilot is a four-week course that prepares participants for future employment or postsecondary education. It includes career planning, job skills training, education, personal and behavioral modification, and life skills. At the end of the course, the participant is provided with a voucher to implement their career plan through one of three pathways: 1) an academic pathway focused on GED attainment or career-technical education (with an emphasis on the I-BEST model for basic skills education), 2) a life skills pathway, or 3) a work pathway, in which students can participate in subsidized or unsubsidized employment, or additional career training. *Awarded: \$20,505,890*

Virginia Department of Social Services

The EleVAte SNAP E&T pilot targets innovative employment and training services through its project to ABAWDs, non-custodial parents, and low-skilled individuals, each of whom will earn at least one industry-recognized credential valued by employers. EleVAte offers three programs customized to the skill levels of participants upon entry: a hybrid online learning lab with instructor-led workshops, job readiness and training leading to a certificate or certification, and a longer-term integrated basic education and training program, all of which draw from evidence-based strategies. Each program will be supported by intensive case management and advising. *Awarded: \$22,329,952*

Vermont Department for Children and Families

The Jobs for Independence (JFI) pilot provides a range of education and training options to high-need populations, including homeless adults, individuals connected to the correctional systems, and individuals with substance addiction illness. Services include adult basic education and GED services, job readiness training, occupational training, and work-based learning such as apprenticeships and on-the-job training. All pilot participants receive a comprehensive, clinical assessment that informs the creation of an intensive cross-agency case management team to ensure that pilot participants have access to all necessary supportive services. Pilot participants are referred to the Governor's Career Ready Program at Vermont Community College; program completers receive a National Career Readiness Certificate that, whenever possible, will be paired with an industry recognized certificate or credential. *Awarded: \$8,959,379*

Washington Department of Social and Health Services

The Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) pilot helps individuals with significant barriers to employment—including homeless adults, limited English proficient individuals, veterans, and non-custodial parents with child support obligations—through comprehensive case management and work-based learning opportunities. The pilot operates in King, Pierce, Spokane, and Yakima counties, with case management services provided by community colleges and community based organizations. Case managers will help resolve barriers to employment by leveraging housing resources, working with the Division of Child Support for clients who are delinquent in child support payments, and creating accelerated training strategies and job placements within in-demand or high growth industries. *Awarded: \$22,000,000*

In addition to its pilot funding, and in accordance with the Act, FNS will reimburse States for 50 percent of State or local funding spent on allowable pilot activities.

Office of Employment and Training

The Agricultural Act of 2014 placed an emphasis on assisting program participants to move off a reliance on SNAP through robust employment and training activities. As a result, FNS requested and was provided with the funding to establish a division within SNAP, the Office of Employment and Training (OET), with experts in SNAP E&T and workforce development strategies. The OET monitors the effectiveness of States' E&T programs, provides technical assistance to State agencies to create job-driven programs, and increases collaboration with other Federal training programs. Additional staff was hired in each regional office in FY 2015 who are dedicated solely to SNAP E&T. Those regional staff work “on the ground” with State agencies, their partners, and other stakeholders. This integrates and aligns SNAP E&T with other job-training programs, leverage resources, and implement outcome measures.

FNS recognizes the importance of self-sufficiency and seeks to help move more individuals and families into good jobs, reducing their need for food assistance. SNAP includes work requirements for certain adults who are able to work and provides employment and training opportunities to help SNAP recipients gain and retain employment. SNAP is working to more effectively move these households to self-sufficiency by improving employment and training opportunities.

Technical Assistance

In FY 2015, FNS awarded a contract to the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) to operate the *SNAP to Skills Project (S2S)*, a technical assistance (TA) effort that provides States tools and resources to develop employer-driven SNAP E&T Programs. Through the SNAP to Skills Project, FNS offers direct technical assistance to 10 States annually to help them design and build job-driven SNAP E&T programs. The first round of S2S operated for 2 years (FY 2016-2017) and provided direct TA to Arkansas, Arizona, California (Bay Area), Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee. The second round of S2S operated in FY 2018 and provided TA to Alaska, Arkansas, California, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Ohio, and Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. The Seattle Jobs Initiative is the contractor for the S2S Project.

FNS is in the process of selecting the 10 States that will receive direct technical assistance in FY 2019. The TA is central to FNS' efforts to improve the quality of State SNAP E&T programs so more SNAP clients can obtain economic self-sufficiency.

In addition to this direct TA, S2S has created new tools and resources for all States that provide an operational roadmap to building a high-quality program and highlight best practices for serving key SNAP target populations. All of these resources are housed on the S2S website, <https://snaptoskills.fns.usda.gov>. The website is designed to be a “one-stop shop” for States interested in building employer-driven programs and expanding their 50/50 program.

In FY 2018, FNS offered the second *SNAP E&T Learning Academy* (“Academy”), which is a competitive opportunity for a select number of individuals to gain specific technical expertise on SNAP E&T that prepares them to work within their State or across multiple States to build high-quality SNAP E&T programs. The Academy is designed to prepare a network of individuals from organizations providing technical assistance to States who can work with States to develop SNAP E&T programs, using a “train the trainer” approach. In FY 2019, FNS will operate two *State Institutes* in place of the Learning Academy. OET will offer the first State Institute in the winter 2019 on operational SNAP E&T best practices and a second in fall 2019 on work-based learning and skills-based training strategies.

Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems

Electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems, which replaced the coupon-based method for providing SNAP benefits, were implemented nationwide in June 2004. Each recipient household is issued a plastic benefit card with a magnetic stripe to make food purchases. The cards are associated with benefit accounts, which are debited when food purchases are made. In most States, EBT cards are also used for TANF and other cash benefit programs. These systems are interoperable, which means that recipients may shop at FNS-authorized food retailers in any State.

EBT System Conversions: FNS worked with the States to prepare for numerous States' conversions to a new EBT processor. This involves weekly meetings, reviewing and providing feedback on documentation and attending the user acceptance tests to ensure the State is prepared to successfully convert to their new vendor. This work was undertaken in support of the following States in FY 2018: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands, and West Virginia. Most States completed their conversions in FY 2018 and others will continue into FY 2019 with additional States to begin their conversion activities during the coming year.

Retailer File System (RFS): RFS is the combination of three distinct applications builds on a single platform, providing users with the means to digitize, share and manage electronic retailer records. The system allows users to upload documents through a scanning application or through the Store Tracking and Redemption System (STARS), perform document quality control tasks and view electronic records. In FY 2018 RFS deployed two system releases as a result of continued efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of managing retailer records. The system releases included enhancements to the RFS quality control actions, improvements to search capabilities, document type additions and updates, upgrades to the reporting tool and scanning software, and the creation of a new user role.

Anti-fraud Locator using EBT Retailer Transactions (ALERT): During FY 2018, FNS released several updates to ALERT, the system for fighting SNAP retailer fraud. The updates ensure continuity of system operations as well as enhancements using the best-suited prevalent architectures and technologies available in the IT industry. These updates include: a new map for determining eligibility in low food access areas; updates to ensure the proper ingestion and integrity of EBT data; a new report that provides a summary of transactions at one or more stores during a specified timeframe; significant redesign of the Case Analysis Document (CAD) functionality to enable better workflow management and provide a consistent template; and several enhancements to existing functionality that improve efficiency of analysis and clarity of data presentation.

These updates enhance FNS' ability to identify fraudulent activity by implementing an update to an existing ALERT scan; implementing an updated ALERT rank algorithm; and defining requirements for updating all other existing scans.

STARS: Seven releases of STARS were completed in FY 2018. STARS is the system used by FNS to manage retailer participation in SNAP. These releases included enhancements for the four Retailer Operations Division (ROD) branches. The major enhancements in FY 2018 include updating online retailer applications, improving performance reporting, streamlining the capability to transfer information between branches, and automating case assignments to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Studies and Evaluations

FNS published three major reports related to SNAP during FY 2018, including one study mandated by the 2010 Child Nutrition Act. The reports are available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap-research>. These include:

SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Characteristics Study surveyed SNAP E&T participants and E&T providers to describe the characteristics of SNAP participants who use E&T services and the characteristics of organizations that provide the services.

Examination of the Effect of SNAP Benefit and Eligibility Parameters on Low-Income Households examines how the policies that determine benefit levels for the SNAP compare to current low-income spending patterns by analyzing the expenditures of low-income households across the United States in 2013 and 2014 Consumer Expenditure Surveys.

Evaluation of Demonstration Projects to End Childhood Hunger: Interim Report, evaluates projects, authorized by the 2010 Child Nutrition Act, that test innovative strategies to end childhood hunger and food insecurity. The interim evaluation report describes (1) the demonstration projects, (2) planning and early

implementation activities, and (3) findings from the baseline data collection for four projects located within Chickasaw Nation, Kentucky, Nevada, and Virginia.

Community Food Projects

The Community Food Projects program is authorized under Section 25 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. The Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program supports the development of Community Food Projects with a one-time infusion of Federal dollars to make such projects self-sustaining. While funding was set at \$5 million per year in the 2008 Farm Bill, Section 4026 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 increased that amount to \$9 million beginning in FY 2015. This grants program is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Farmers' Markets and Direct-Marketing Farmers

FNS spent approximately \$4 million in FY 2018 to provide wireless SNAP EBT equipment to newly authorized farmers' markets and direct marketing farmers and those needing replacement equipment. In FY 2018, an online application portal was launched to ensure that applications for Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) equipment from eligible markets and farmers are reviewed and processed swiftly.

In FY 2018, approximately 93 farmers markets and direct marketing farmers received wireless SNAP EBT equipment through this contract. As of September 30, 2018, the number of SNAP-authorized farmers markets and direct marketing farmers decreased from 7,377 in FY 2017 to 7,206 with redemptions over \$24 million in FY 2018.

In FY 2018, FNS conducted three webinars for the farmers market and direct marketing farmer communities on operational issues, tips for success, and sharing of ideas for SNAP programming educational activities at farmers markets. FNS will continue activities that promote SNAP operations at farmers markets, and support the goals and mission of SNAP.

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR PUERTO RICO (NAP)

Program Mission

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 added a new Section 19 to the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, which replaced SNAP in Puerto Rico with a block grant, effective July 1, 1982. Section 19 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, retains the authority for the Puerto Rico nutrition assistance block grant. The block grant requires that Puerto Rico submit and gain approval from the Secretary for a program plan each year. The plan must assess the food and nutrition needs of the island's neediest residents, describe the assistance needed, describe how it would be provided to the neediest residents, describe the amount of administrative expense needed, and meet such other requirements as the Secretary might prescribe by regulation. The Secretary is required to provide for the review of programs for assistance under Section 19 and is allowed to provide appropriate technical assistance for such programs.

Beginning in 2001, NAP program rules provided that 75 percent of NAP benefits were redeemable for eligible food items at certified NAP retailers through EBT; the remaining 25 percent of benefits were available as cash and intended food purchases. Section 4025 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 requires the Secretary to review cash nutrition assistance benefits in Puerto Rico by studying: the history of cash benefits, barriers to redemption with non-cash benefits, usage of cash benefits for the purchase of nonfood items, and other factors. The provision also restricts the Secretary from approving any nutrition assistance plan for FY 2017 that provides more than 20 percent of benefits in cash. Due to recent disasters, there was been a temporary hold at 20 percent into FY 2018 which ended on December 31, 2017. In FY 2018, cash was limited to 15 percent of benefits; in FY 2019, cash is limited to 10 percent of benefits; in FY 2020, cash is limited to 5 percent; and in FY 2021, no benefits shall be in the form of cash. The Secretary may make exemptions if discontinuation of cash benefits will have significant adverse effects. Due to the Disasters, Puerto Rico received the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017, which delivered an additional \$1.27 billion. These funds allowed Puerto Rico to expand assistance to additional households, and increase the benefit amount for current and new participants on a temporary basis. From this appropriation, Puerto Rico submitted a Comprehensive Plan, which was approved by FNS which expanded eligibility standards and increased NAP benefits. Within the regular NAP block grant, the maximum allotment for a family of four was \$410; with the addition of the disaster funds, the max allotment for a four person household is \$649. Puerto Rico anticipates being able to serve households up to nearly 100% of poverty (net income limit) under the expanded eligibility criteria.

Facts in Brief

On average, an estimated 1.28 million people were served monthly during FY 2018.

In FY 2018, total benefit costs were \$1.89 billion for the Regular NAP, and \$721 million for the NAP Relief Grant, for nutrition assistance program recipients.

Puerto Rico spent an estimated \$35 million of Federal funds on administrative activities in FY 2018, which are matched by an equivalent amount of State funds.

Federal Responsibilities of the Block Grant

Puerto Rico proposes its annual program plan that estimates the costs of benefits, administration, and other projects in July for the fiscal year beginning on the following October 1. FNS must review and approve the Commonwealth's annual plan and monitor program operations to ensure program integrity. These monitoring activities include reviewing financial reports of obligations and expenditures and on-site management reviews of selected program operations. The cost of these components for FYs 2015 through 2018 actuals is as follows:

Table FNS-80. Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico Summary of Funding

	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Estimates
Benefit Costs	\$1,908,535	\$1,919,423	\$1,912,904	\$1,888,156
Administrative Costs	42,346	37,947	35,771	29,862
Nutrition Education Program	516	105	94	59
Total Federal Funds	1,951,397	1,957,475	1,948,769	1,918,077
State Administrative Costs	42,862	37,947	35,771	29,862
Total Program Costs	1,994,259	1,995,422	1,984,540	1,947,939

NAP Relief Grant

Table FNS-81. 2018 NAP Relief

	2018 NAP Relief
Benefit Costs	\$720,851
Administrative Costs	4,473
Nutrition Education Program	-
Total Federal Funds	725,324
State Administrative Costs	-
Total Program Costs	725,324

The NAP Relief Grant Administrative funds are 100% Federal funds, and do not require a State match on approved reporting extension due to devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Participation

From its inception, the NAP in Puerto Rico served a much higher proportion of the total population than the United States as a whole, due to the significantly lower living standards in Puerto Rico. This continues to be the case under the block grant program: an average of 1.28 million persons were served monthly or about 36 percent of Puerto Rico's total estimated population of 3.6 million participated in the program in FY 2018. Average monthly participation for FYs 2015 through 2018 actual is as follows:

Table FNS-82. Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico Summary of Participation

	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Estimates
Average Number of Person (million)	1.32	1.29	1.24	1.28
Average Number of Households	671,682	673,459	657,224	689,873
Average Household Size (persons)	1.97	1.93	1.89	1.86
Average Benefit per Household	\$238	\$238	\$247	\$318

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA

Program Mission

The American Samoa Nutrition Assistance Program was authorized by Public Law 96-597 (December 24, 1980) and began on July 1, 1994. The program is now operating under the authority of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, Section 19. In FY 2018, \$7.709 million was enacted for American Samoa's block grant.

Facts in Brief

A monthly average of 3,642 persons, or about 6.54 percent of American Samoa's total estimated population of 55,692 was served during FY 2018.

In FY 2018, average monthly benefit costs were \$388,991 or \$106.81 per person.

American Samoa spent \$1.81 million for administrative activities for FY 2018. Block grant funding provides for 100 percent of administrative and benefits costs.

The program serves the low-income elderly, blind, and disabled population.

American Samoa utilizes printed food coupons.

Federal Responsibilities of the Block Grant

American Samoa submits a memorandum of understanding each fiscal year specifying how the program will be operated, including eligibility requirements to stay within the capped block grant amount. FNS must review and approve the annual memorandum of understanding and monitor program operations to ensure program integrity. These monitoring activities include reviewing financial reports of obligations and expenditures and on-site management reviews of selected program operations.

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Program Mission

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI) nutrition assistance program began on July 2, 1982. The program was authorized by Public Law 96-597 (December 24, 1980), which allowed USDA to extend programs administered by the Department to CNMI and other territories. In FY 2017, \$12,148,000 in grant funds were provided to CNMI.

Section 4031 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 authorizes a feasibility study on implementing SNAP (in a manner similar to SNAP in the States) or an appropriate alternative in CNMI. In August 2016, the feasibility study was completed and published. CNMI opted to use the additional funding appropriated under the Agricultural Act of 2014 to enhance their existing Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP), which was an authorized option. CNMI's enhanced NAP called E-NAP increases the income eligibility limits, increases the allotment benefits for each of the islands, implements a new eligibility system with Electronic Benefit Transfer interface capabilities, and adjusts resources (staffing and administrative costs) as needed. CNMI was approved to receive funding for the E-NAP as follows: \$13.5 million (FY 2016) and \$8.5 million (for each of FYs 2017 and 2018), for a total of \$30.5 million. CNMI signed a grant agreement (FNS 529) that allows CNMI to use the funding during the period of performance. Funding will be monitored throughout the period of performance to ensure funding is properly managed.

Facts in Brief

In FY 2018, CNMI NAP served an average of 7,758 people, or 14.5 percent of CNMI's total estimated population, each month.

In FY 2018, average monthly benefits were \$916,447 which averages \$327 per household.

CNMI NAP has opted to increase the income eligibility limits and the allotment benefits effective in June 2018 and October 2018.

In FY 2018, CNMI spent an estimated \$2.24 million on administrative activities. Block grant funding provides 100 percent of administrative and benefits costs.

CNMI NAP is allowed to set its eligibility standards within the capped block grant.

CNMI NAP utilizes food coupons.

Federal Responsibilities of the Block Grant and Enhanced Funds

The CNMI submits a memorandum of understanding (MOU) each fiscal year, specifying how the program will be operated, including eligibility requirements to stay within the capped block grant amount. FNS must review and approve the annual memorandum of understanding and monitor program and fiscal operations to ensure program integrity. These monitoring activities include reviewing financial reports of obligations and expenditures and on-site management reviews of selected program operations.

In addition to the MOU negotiations process, if CNMI is making changes to the approved E-NAP, a revised plan must be submitted to FNS for review and approval.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR)**Program Mission**

FDPIR is an alternative nutrition assistance program to SNAP for income-eligible households residing on Indian reservations and income-eligible Indian households in designated service areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. FDPIR is authorized by Section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, to allow Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) or an agency of the State government to operate a food distribution program for households who prefer USDA Foods to SNAP benefits. Each month, participating households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet. Participants may select from over 100 products including a wide selection of fresh produce as well as offerings of traditional foods. The variety of foods available in the FDPIR food benefit package includes:

- Frozen ground beef, beef roast, chicken, and ground bison.
- Fresh and canned fruits and vegetables; pastas, cereals, rice, and other grains
- Canned soups
- Cheese, low-fat ultra-high temperature milk, nonfat dry milk, and evaporated milk
- Flour, bakery mix, yellow cornmeal, and blue cornmeal
- Dried beans and dehydrated potatoes
- Bottled juices and dried fruit
- Peanut butter
- Vegetable oil

Federal administrative funding is provided to ITOs and State agencies to support the administrative cost of operating the program. Funding is also provided for nutrition education related activities, which can include individual nutrition counseling, group cooking demonstrations, nutrition classes, and the dissemination of resources, including recipes, related to USDA Foods. Households may not participate in FDPIR and SNAP in the same month.

Facts in Brief

In FY 2018, three States and 102 ITOs administered programs on 276 Indian reservations, pueblos, rancherias, and Alaska Native Villages. Nutrition assistance was provided to an average of 87,500 persons per month at a cost to FNS of \$73.63 per food package in FY 2018, with an average monthly per person administrative cost of \$46.18.

Table FNS-83. FDPIR Participation and Costs

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Average Participation (in Thousands)	77.8	76.5	75.6	85.4	88.6	93.0	90.2	87.2
Per Person Per Month Food Cost (Entitlement)	\$50.71	\$57.04	\$59.31	\$60.92	\$65.22	\$62.02	\$71.96	\$73.63
Total FNS Food Cost (in Millions)	\$47.37	\$52.38	\$53.94	\$62.51	\$69.35	\$69.25	\$76.09	\$68.14

Note: Total Per Person Food Costs differ from commodity procurement obligations due to inventory level changes.

Food Package: FNS continues its commitment to improve the food package offered under FDPIR through the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group. The work group, consisting of National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR)-appointed representatives, including nutritionists, and FNS staff, is focusing on ways to better meet the nutritional needs and food preferences of program participants nationwide. The Work Group seeks to reduce saturated fat, sugar, and sodium in the food package and explore ways to increase the convenience and acceptability of products offered. In FY 2018, as a result of Work Group feedback, a number of changes were made to better meet the needs of recipients including a change in bakery mix and apple sauce pack sizes to be more convenient for participants to use, the permanent addition of bison as a selection in the meat category, and the inclusion of catfish as a new traditional food item. During FY 2018, FNS continued to pilot the juice substitution pilot that permits recipients to replace some or all of their juice allocation with canned, dried, or fresh fruit options. FNS also continued to pilot the distribution of fresh shell eggs and expanded shell egg delivery to additional FDPIR programs, bringing the total number of ITOs participating in the pilot to 32.

Traditional and Locally-Grown Food Fund: The 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized the 2008 Farm Bill provision which provided for the establishment of a fund, subject to the availability of appropriations, for use in purchasing traditional and locally-grown foods for FDPIR. Since FY 2015, FDPIR has been allocated \$5 million each fiscal year to meet this provision. FNS continued to work with the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group to prioritize traditional food items for purchase based on participant preferences. Since FY 2015, FNS and its procurement partner, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), have awarded contracts to deliver blue cornmeal, ground bison frozen wild salmon and traditionally-harvested wild rice. The procurement of traditionally-harvested wild rice was awarded to two FDPIR Indian Tribal Organizations who had recently become approved USDA vendors. In FY 2018, FNS continued with purchases of these traditional foods and added catfish as an additional traditional food item to the food package.

Nutrition Education Activities: In FY 2018, FNS awarded nearly \$1 million in FDPIR Nutrition Education Grants to 15 grantees benefiting FDPIR participants across 10 States. The grants promote the healthy foods offered in FDPIR and align with the goals of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. During FY 2018, FNS also completed a qualitative assessment to determine the needs for a project that will provide Indian Tribal Organization staff with the knowledge and skills needed to serve as nutrition education paraprofessionals for their organizations. FNS contracted with 2M Research and Mathematica Policy. A final report was completed in FY 2018 with findings that support the development of a pilot project. FNS will continue to explore training opportunities, under a pilot, in FY 2019.

FDPIR Automated Inventory System: In FY 2018, FNS began to replace the Automated Inventory System (AIS), an old, non-web-based system used by most Indian Tribal Organizations to manage inventory and food issuance for FDPIR. FNS is exploring options to streamline activities by bringing AIS onto a web platform and provide maintenance and enhancements in security and in business processes that support FDPIR operations. The AIS replacement project is expected to be deployed in a series of phases in FY 2019.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-84. Summary of Benefit Costs, Participation and State Administrative Funding FY 2018**

State or Territory	Persons	Households	Total Value of Benefits Issued	Average Monthly Benefit per Person	State Administrative, Nutrition Education, and Employment & Training Funding
Alabama	767	360	\$1,084,563	\$117.89	\$50,477
Alaska	92	41	187,357	169.72	10,245
Arizona	846	388	1,210,430	119.27	69,742
Arkansas	372	165	479,990	107.39	33,141
California	3,950	1,946	6,332,750	133.62	931,272
Colorado	450	222	668,611	123.87	58,268
Connecticut	387	223	614,968	132.31	56,165
Delaware	140	69	196,899	116.95	12,926
District of Columbia	111	65	188,433	141.07	22,139
Florida	3,348	1,748	5,763,763	143.48	107,267
Georgia	1,539	718	2,336,788	126.49	98,182
Hawaii	164	84	469,687	239.22	21,386
Idaho	158	70	199,514	105.32	11,100
Illinois	1,826	920	2,777,949	126.78	109,276
Indiana	617	275	867,533	117.16	58,034
Iowa	345	165	446,260	107.67	20,975
Kansas	217	101	293,540	112.51	26,523
Kentucky	610	283	853,987	116.58	62,477
Louisiana	867	403	1,297,322	124.65	67,261
Maine	168	89	218,507	108.48	15,474
Maryland	646	344	910,099	117.31	68,479
Massachusetts	771	451	1,159,119	125.35	64,407
Michigan	1,282	684	1,894,037	123.13	92,639
Minnesota	429	212	544,800	105.83	69,649
Mississippi	505	232	680,119	112.16	26,471
Missouri	737	342	1,061,334	120.07	49,582
Montana	115	56	158,486	114.62	10,150
Nebraska	170	76	229,206	112.48	19,307
Nevada	440	228	614,242	116.35	27,815
New Hampshire	87	43	101,517	97.80	9,568
New Jersey	760	379	1,012,654	110.99	162,852
New Mexico	456	220	638,422	116.61	31,607
New York	2,797	4,566	4,526,971	134.89	362,346
North Carolina	1,075	616	1,870,724	145.01	120,697
North Dakota	53	25	75,391	119.39	11,477
Ohio	1,421	710	2,078,237	121.85	113,992
Oklahoma	585	269	832,653	118.60	122,422
Oregon	634	365	937,799	123.27	92,157
Pennsylvania	1,819	956	2,592,184	118.78	180,813
Rhode Island 2/	0	0	0	0	13,984
South Carolina	658	308	943,922	119.52	39,050
South Dakota	87	40	131,113	125.00	8,744
Tennessee	971	471	1,424,891	122.30	77,377
Texas	3,895	1,636	5,525,177	118.20	218,503
Utah	189	78	258,536	113.94	16,865
Vermont	73	41	106,782	121.80	9,099
Virginia	736	352	1,051,801	119.05	116,926
Washington	877	502	1,268,735	120.52	116,217
West Virginia	321	165	440,299	114.30	17,918
Wisconsin	653	329	817,239	104.31	65,187
Wyoming	29	13	40,676	115.57	7,208
American Samoa 1/	0	0	0	0	0
CNMI 1/	0	0	0	0	0
Guam	45	15	106,449	197.24	2,042
Virgin Islands	33	15	86,936	220.65	4,956
Anticipated Adjustment	0	0	157,260	0	639,346
TOTAL	40,324	20,078	\$60,766,661	\$125.25	\$4,832,200

NOTE: These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

1/ These entities receive a fixed grant and do not report participation.

2/ Rhode Island is experiencing system reporting issues and therefore has not reported their data to FNS for the months of February 2017 through current month. Questions regarding Rhode Island's reporting should be directed to: William.Odonnell@DHS.RI.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-85. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Participation and Funding FY 2018**

State or Territory	Average Monthly Participation	Food Costs 1/	Administrative Funding 2/	Total Food and Admin
Alaska.....	573	\$385,545	\$821,368	\$1,206,913
Arizona.....	11,100	8,796,348	4,393,258	13,189,606
California.....	4,153	2,793,347	3,145,900	5,939,247
Colorado.....	413	310,254	298,831	609,085
Idaho.....	1,511	1,011,573	846,260	1,857,833
Kansas.....	658	469,722	330,165	799,887
Michigan.....	1,891	1,372,251	2,293,301	3,665,552
Minnesota.....	2,440	2,333,980	1,819,966	4,153,946
Mississippi.....	1,270	1,533,865	333,300	1,867,165
Montana.....	3,314	2,558,117	3,201,750	5,759,867
Nebraska.....	1,218	717,003	625,970	1,342,973
Nevada.....	1,185	731,663	615,360	1,347,023
New Mexico.....	2,811	1,980,156	1,812,381	3,792,537
New York.....	264	259,504	431,432	690,936
North Carolina.....	735	760,581	349,709	1,110,290
North Dakota.....	5,625	5,160,435	3,046,323	8,206,758
Oklahoma.....	30,833	23,918,374	13,048,509	36,966,883
Oregon.....	650	628,381	770,359	1,398,740
South Dakota.....	8,505	6,476,736	3,799,219	10,275,955
Texas.....	76	60,973	158,419	219,392
Utah.....	319	233,896	132,791	366,687
Washington.....	3,207	2,188,752	2,385,780	4,574,532
Wisconsin.....	3,342	2,308,235	2,385,780	4,574,532
Wyoming.....	1,120	863,166	318,581	1,181,747
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment.....	0	0	0	1,054,632
Undistributed.....	0	27,361,875	2,367,000	28,674,243
TOTAL.....	87,216	\$95,214,733	\$49,703,318	\$144,918,051

SOURCE: FPRS FNS-152 data – Food distributed to participants in fiscal year 2018.

1/ Total value of entitlement foods. Costs do not include bonus commodities, food losses, storage and transportation for certain items (Group A fruits and vegetables, all Group B commodities), the value of food used for nutrition education, or the Department of Defense Regional Pilot.

2/ Administrative funding represents the total of Federal outlays and unliquidated obligations.

NOTE: These data are based in part on preliminary reports submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revisions are received. Totals reflect Federal obligations and differ from State reported data.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-86. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Quantity and Value of Commodities FY 2018**

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Applesauce, Unsweetened, Cup.....	687,960	\$492,355
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	145,800	128,434
Beans, Canned, Black, Low-Sodium.....	177,863	69,202
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium.....	1,088,153	417,574
Beans, Canned, Light Red Kidney, Low-Sodium.....	355,725	146,727
Beans, Canned, Pinto, Low-Sodium.....	426,870	176,746
Beans, Canned, Refried, Low-Sodium.....	367,200	158,386
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium.....	293,760	118,223
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium.....	35,802	13,254
Beans, Dry, Great Northern, No Salt Added.....	384,000	178,799
Beans, Dry, Pinto, No Salt Added.....	1,145,760	482,864
Beef, Canned.....	504,000	1,275,246
Beef, Fine Ground, Frozen.....	2,304,000	5,607,365
Beef, Round Roast, Frozen.....	1,360,000	4,764,068
Beef, Stew, Canned.....	2,196,000	2,106,360
Bison, Ground, Frozen.....	400,000	3,592,000
Butter, Salted.....	326,160	949,763
Buttery spread, Light.....	316,710	372,600
Carrots, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	218,700	113,481
Catfish, Fillet, Frozen.....	608,000	2,587,040
Cereal, Corn Flakes.....	258,120	269,307
Cereal, Corn Squares.....	127,008	280,866
Cereal, Oat Circles.....	116,508	117,034
Cereal, Rice Crisps.....	265,104	340,286
Cereal, Wheat Bran Flakes.....	138,792	148,565
Cereal, Wheat Shredded.....	132,840	110,224
Cheese, American, Loaves.....	2,455,200	4,219,138
Cheese, Blended, American, Skim, Sliced.....	831,600	1,200,260
Chicken, White Meat, Canned.....	252,000	378,048
Chicken, Split Breast, Frozen.....	1,131,000	2,893,870
Chicken, Whole, Bagged, Frozen.....	1,006,000	865,688
Corn, Canned, Cream Style, Low-Sodium.....	182,250	99,403
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added.....	1,314,918	571,009
Cornmeal, Blue.....	180,576	145,031
Cornmeal, Yellow.....	985,320	203,743
Crackers, Unsalted.....	697,080	2,220,684
Cranberries, Dried.....	293,625	744,165
Cranberry Sauce, Canned.....	220,320	151,103
DOD Fresh Produce.....	-	10,251,706
Egg Mix, Dried.....	468,000	3,680,604
Farina.....	459,000	342,169
Flour Mix, Bakery, Low-Fat.....	1,465,450	1,751,389
Flour, All Purpose, Enriched.....	5,740,560	1,340,549
Flour, White Whole Wheat.....	360,000	69,200
Fruit/Nut Mix, Dry.....	174,720	600,032
Hominy, Canned.....	179,775	90,454
Juice, Bottled, Apple, Unsweetened.....	2,455,140	1,081,046
Juice, Bottled, Cherry Apple, Unsweetened.....	1,141,440	549,011
Juice Bottled, Cranberry Apple, Unsweetened.....	997,890	515,346
Juice, Bottled, Grape Concord, Unsweetened.....	1,155,360	522,510
Juice, Bottled, Orange, Unsweetened.....	2,746,590	4,790,091

2020 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Juice Bottled, Tomato, Unsweetened.....	642,060	210,545
Macaroni and Cheese.....	748,200	566,306
Milk, Evaporated, Canned, Skim.....	1,189,728	757,225
Milk, Instant, Nonfat Dry.....	282,240	566,306
Milk, UHT, 1%.....	8,908,740	2,792,717
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	636,300	419,045
Mixed Vegetables, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	565,200	318,665
Oats.....	1,867,320	1,058,381
Oil, Vegetable.....	972,972	564,937
Pasta, Enriched.....	2,839,240	1,343,730
Pasta, Whole Grain.....	97,200	50,998
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	1,236,375	802,285
Peanut butter.....	695,520	695,490
Peanuts, Roasted, No Salt Added.....	155,520	288,070
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	715,500	475,927
Peas, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	482,850	229,264
Plums, Dried.....	108,000	177,840
Pork Chops, Frozen.....	1,140,000	2,922,386
Pork, Pit ham, Frozen.....	624,640	1,416,371
Potatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	403,920	162,073
Potatoes, Dehydrated.....	240,000	242,075
Pumpkin, Canned, No Salt Added.....	72,900	61,349
Rice, White.....	1,602,000	583,967
Rice, Wild.....	65,000	622,500
Salmon, Fillets, Wild, Frozen.....	324,000	3,666,600
Soup, Canned, Tomato, Low-Sodium.....	283,800	184,470
Soup, Canned, Vegetable, Low-Sodium.....	319,275	252,978
Soup, Cream of Chicken, Reduced Sodium.....	415,800	442,596
Soup, Cream of Mushroom, Reduced Sodium.....	589,446	569,586
Spaghetti Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	601,425	263,007
Spinach, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	101,745	78,570
Sweet Potatoes, Canned, Light Syrup.....	103,275	76,133
Tomato Sauce, Canned, No Salt Added.....	481,950	200,155
Tomatoes, Canned, No Salt Added.....	662,723	265,050
Tortilla, Whole Grain-Rich.....	180,000	140,134
Tuna, Canned, Chunk Light.....	72,000	175,050
Anticipated Transportation and Storage.....	-	
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses.....	-	1,054,632
Anticipated Adjustment.....	-	9,423,110
Total Commodity Entitlement	71,665,710	\$95,214,733
Grand Total FDPIR	71,665,710	\$95,214,733

Source: WBSCM—Sales Order and contract information.

ACCOUNT 4: COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-87. Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2019 Annualized Continuing Resolution.....	\$322,139,000
Change in Appropriation	-266,668,000
Budget Estimate, 2020.....	<u>55,471,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster assistance; the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983; and special assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–188)); \$55,471,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective with funds made available in fiscal year 2020 to support the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds shall remain available through September 30, 2021: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)), the Secretary may use up to 15 percent for costs associated with the distribution of commodities (Public Law 115-141).

PROJECT STATEMENT

Table FNS-88. Project Statement (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))

Item	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Commodity Supplemental Food Program.....	\$236,120		\$238,120		\$238,120		-\$238,120	(1)	-	-	
Farmer's Market.....	18,548		18,548		18,548		-18,548	(2)	-	-	
TEFAP Admin.....	59,401		64,401		64,401		-10,000	(3)	-	\$54,401	
Nuclear Affected Islands	574	-	574	-	574	-	-	(4)	-	574	
Disaster Assistance.....	496	-	496	-	496	-	-	(5)	-	496	-
Total Appropriation.....	315,139	-	322,139	-	322,139	-	-266,668		-	55,471	-
Supplemental Appropriations:											
TEFAP Disaster Assistance Supplemental	-	-	24,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Adjusted Approp	315,139	3	346,139	3	322,139	3	-266,668		-3	55,471	-
Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program ¹	20,600	-	20,600	-	20,600	-	-		-	20,600	-
TEFAP Farm Bill Projects.....	-	-	-	-	4,000	-	-		-	4,000	-
Nutrition Services Incentive Program ²	2,554	-	2,752	-	1,902	-	-1,902		-	-	-
Total Adjusted Appropriation & Transfer In	338,293	-	369,491	-	348,641	-	-1,902		-	80,071	-
Sequestration	-1,421	-	-1,360	-	-1,277	-	+1,277		-	-	-
Recoveries, Other (Net).....	7,460	-	7,244	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	48,165	-	79,018	-	92,226	-	-92,226		-	-	-
Total Available.....	392,497	3	454,393	3	439,590	3	-359,519		-	80,071	-
Lapsing Balances.....	-8	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	-79,018	-	-92,226	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
Total Obligations.....	313,471	3	362,167	3	439,590	3	-359,519		-3	80,071	-

¹ Section 4402(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007(a)) authorizes the transfer of \$20,600,000 from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) for the SFMNP.

² Section 311(d)(3) of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3030a) authorizes the transfer of NSIP funds from HHS for the purchase of USDA Foods and related expenses for the elderly. The NSIP amounts for FY 2020 will be determined at a later date.

The numbered justifications items are keyed to the Change Key (Chg Key) column on the Project Statement.

Commodity Assistance Program

The Commodity Assistance Program (CAP) account combines funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program, and assistance to the six Nuclear Affected Islands of The Republic of the Marshall Islands and Disaster Relief.

The FY 2020 request for the Commodity Assistance Program (CAP) reflects a decrease of \$266,668,000.

- (1) A decrease of \$238,120,000 for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (\$238,120,000 and 3 staff years available in FY 2019).

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) food benefits are duplicative of other nutrition assistance programs that currently exist. CSFP is available in most States, but is a relatively small program which operates in limited areas of 49 States, two Indian reservations, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

The priority of the Administration is to ensure the continued integrity of the national nutrition assistance safety net. Limited resources are better focused on nutrition programs that are universally available to serve low-income populations.

- (2) A decrease of \$18,548,000 in the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (\$18,548,000 available in FY 2019). This decrease would eliminate the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) which duplicates cash value voucher benefits being received in WIC. Elimination of the program would save an estimated \$19 million per year, the current authorization for the program. All women and children in WIC now receive a monthly cash-value voucher (\$11 for women and \$8 for children) for the purchase of fruits and vegetables which can be used in grocery stores or farmers' markets. The FMNP is available only in limited locations in 48 State agencies (including 6 Indian Tribal Organizations) while cash value vouchers are accepted at all WIC participating vendors.

- (3) A decrease of \$10,000,000 in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (\$64,401,000 available in FY 2019). This funding is used for grants to States to support the storage and distribution of USDA Foods distributed through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) network of emergency feeding organizations (EFOs). The funding is allocated among States using a statutory formula that takes into account poverty and unemployment. States are required to pass through at least 40 percent of these funds to EFOs and must match any funding retained for State administrative expenses.

The traditional funding level for the administration of his program is \$54.4 million. Because commodity levels have decreased since FY 2016, the request for administrative TEFAP funding is being returned to the traditional level of \$54.4 million.

- (4) No change in the Nuclear Affected Islands program (\$574,000 available in FY 2019). This funding provides nutrition assistance to the former residents of the four atolls that were rendered uninhabitable because of the nuclear weapons testing program at Bikini atoll in the Pacific Ocean. Certain islands in nuclear-affected zones of the Republic of the Marshall Islands receive nutrition assistance as authorized by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (P.L.108-188). Under the terms of a memorandum of understanding between USDA and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the assistance is currently provided as cash in-lieu of USDA Foods and administrative funds.
- (5) No change in the Disaster Assistance program (\$496,000 available in FY 2019). The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288) authorizes funds appropriated under Section 32 to purchase USDA Foods for assistance in major disasters or emergencies when other food supplies are not readily available. This funding provides nutrition assistance in situations of distress, which are natural catastrophes or other situations that have not been Presidentially declared as a disaster or emergency. Funds can also be used for purchase of foods for household distribution during situations of distress or for use in Presidentially-declared disasters.

CSFP PERFORMANCE DATA**Table FNS-89. Program Performance Data**

	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	Difference	2020 Budget
RESOURCES – Start of Year (\$ in thousands)					
Appropriation	\$236,120	\$238,120	\$238,120	-\$238,120	0
Cash Carry In/Recoveries.....	40,000	78,300	75,265	-75,265	0
Beginning Inventory (Federal-State-Local).....	56,718	45,000	28,925	-28,925	0
Total Resources	332,838	361,420	342,310	-342,310	0
DEMAND					
Program Performance Data					
Caseload (Calendar Year)	697.865	728.552	728.552	-728.552	0
Participation (Fiscal Year).....	629.796	672.796	692.124	-692.124	0
Participation					
<i>Women-Infants-Children</i>	0.186	0.080	0.050	-0.050	0
<i>Elderly</i>	629.610	672.714	692.074	-692.074	0
Average Food Cost Per Month (Whole \$)					
Women-Infants-Children.....	21.53	25.02	25.54	-25.54	0
FNS Funded ¹	21.53	25.05	25.54	-25.54	0
<i>Free (donated)</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Elderly.....	19.38	21.47	21.88	-21.88	0
FNS Funded ¹	19.38	21.47	21.88	-21.88	0
<i>Free (donated)</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Food Costs (Dollars in thousands)					
Food Distribution Costs	\$162,304	\$173,343	\$181,705	-\$181,705	0
<i>Women-Infants-Children</i>	83	25	15	-15	0
<i>Elderly</i>	162,221	173,318	181,690	-181,690	0
Commodity Administrative Costs	1,974	1,941	1,755	-1,755	0
<i>AMS/FSA Charges</i>	258	421	344	-344	0
<i>WBSCM</i>	1,148	1,399	1,673	-1,673	0
<i>Computer Support/Internet</i>	187	191	191	-191	0
Total Food Costs	164,278	175,284	183,460	-183,460	0
State Administrative Expenses (\$ in thousands).....	50,739	54,873	57,337	-57,337	0
TOTAL DEMAND	215,017	230,157	240,797	-240-797	0
BALANCES (YEAR END) (\$ in thousands)					
Funds (Carry Out)	0	\$ 75,265	0	0	0
Ending Inventory.....	117,821	28,895	86,254	-86,254	0
COMMODITY ACTIVITY:					
Purchases.....	225,381	234,444	240,819	-240,819	0
Inventory Change	61,103	-16,105	57,359	-57,359	0

^{1/} In addition to reported food package costs, the number also reflects costs associated with storage and transportation, losses, and nutrition education expenditures.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND STAFF YEARS*Table FNS-90. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))*

State/Territory/Country	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Actual	SY	Actual	SY	Estimate	SY	Budget	SY
Virginia	\$2,039	3	\$2,776	3	\$2,541	3	\$2,209	0
Undistributed.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Available.....	115,182	3	2,776	3	2,541	3	2,209	0

*The geographic breakdown data reports only federal administrative costs. Non-administrative costs such as grants to states and benefits are excluded.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Table FNS-91. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

Item No.	Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$157	\$172	\$114	\$0
	Personnel Compensation, Field	185	203	135	0
11	Total personnel compensation	342	375	249	0
12	Personal benefits.....	108	125	83	0
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	450	500	332	0
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	34	66	66	66
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	1,329	2,209	2,209	2,209
26.0	Supplies and materials	202,896	240,800	299,996	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	108,762	118,592	136,987	77,796
	Total, Other Objects	313,020	361,667	439,258	80,071
99.9	Total, new obligations	313,471	362,167	439,590	80,071

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Commodity Assistance Program (CAP) account combines funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, administrative expenses for The Emergency Food Assistance Program, assistance to the six Nuclear Affected Islands of The Republic of the Marshall Islands, Disaster Relief, the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Program Mission

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides supplemental USDA Foods to low-income elderly persons age 60 and over. Prior to passage of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79, the 2014 Farm Bill), CSFP also served pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age six. However, Section 4102 of the 2014 Farm Bill amended CSFP's eligibility requirements to phase women, infants, and children out of CSFP and transition it to a seniors' only program. In accordance with Section 4102 of the 2014 Farm Bill, women, infants, and children who were certified and receiving CSFP benefits as of February 6, 2014 can continue to receive assistance until they are no longer eligible under the program rules in effect on February 6, 2014.

In FY 2018, the program was administered in parts of 49 States, the District of Columbia, and through three Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs). The foods provided are purchased by USDA with funds appropriated for the program each year. CSFP participants receive monthly food packages that include foods such as canned fruits packed in extra light syrup, low-sodium or no salt added canned vegetables, dry beans, unsweetened juices, canned meats, poultry, and fish that are lower in sodium and fat, peanut butter, whole grain cereals and pasta, and reduced fat or nonfat dairy products. FNS also provides administrative grants to States from the appropriated funds.

Facts in Brief

In calendar year 2018, a total of 728,552 monthly caseload slots were allocated to participating States and ITOs (CSFP caseload is assigned by calendar year). For FY 2018, total program participation averaged 675,998 monthly.

Average monthly participation of women, infants, and children decreased from 169 in FY 2017 to 72 in FY 2018; average monthly elderly participation increased in the same period from 629,545 to 675,926.

In FY 2018, USDA had sufficient resources to provide CSFP caseload slots to Wyoming, Puerto Rico, and Seminole Nation in Oklahoma. These were the only States and ITO with approved State Plans that were not yet administering CSFP. While Wyoming and Seminole Nation began serving participants in FY 2018, Puerto Rico did not.

Program Participation and Caseload Utilization

Each year, to the extent that resources are available, FNS assigns a base caseload to all States and ITOs participating in the program. Base caseload equals the greatest of: 1) monthly average participation for the previous fiscal year; 2) monthly average participation for the final quarter of the previous fiscal year; or, in certain limited circumstances, 3) participation during September of the previous fiscal year. Base caseload cannot exceed total caseload for the previous year. If resources are available to support total caseload in excess of base caseload, States may also be eligible to receive additional caseload, which is assigned based on State requests for such caseload increases and FNS' determination of the number of slots that States can effectively use.

Table FNS-92. CSFP Average Monthly Participation

Participation¹	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Women	2,038	1,026	22	0	0	0
Infants	875	382	15	0	0	0
Children under 6	12,190	8,588	1,590	365	169	72
<i>Total WIC Type</i>	15,103	9,996	1,627	365	169	72
Elderly	564,656	563,707	570,207	585,294	629,545	675,926
<i>Total, CSFP</i>	579,759	573,703	571,834	585,294	629,714	675,998

¹ Based on National Databank version 8.2 data through September 2018. Due to rounding, the sum of the average participation by women, infants, children and elderly may not equal the total average participation.

Administrative Funding

Section 4201 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill, P.L. 107-171) established the method for calculating administrative funds for State agencies in CSFP. State agencies are provided an administrative grant per assigned caseload slot, adjusted each year for inflation. For FY 2018, \$76.12 was the legislatively-mandated administrative grant per assigned caseload slot, up from \$74.82 in FY 2017. Allowable administrative costs include nutrition education, warehousing, food delivery, participant certification, and other costs associated with State and local administration of the program.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program***Program Mission***

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) supplements the diets of needy Americans through donations of nutritious USDA Foods to States. States provide the food to local agencies for distribution to households for home consumption and to organizations that prepare meals for needy people. Recipients of household food packages must meet program eligibility criteria set by the States. USDA also provides TEFAP administrative funding to States to support the storage and distribution of USDA Foods and foods from other sources, including private donations.

Facts in Brief

TEFAP foods and administrative funds are allocated to States based on a formula that considers the number of unemployed people in each State and the number of persons in each State with incomes below the poverty level.

States may direct their TEFAP foods to: 1) distribution to needy households, 2) provision of meals to the needy at emergency feeding sites, or 3) a combination of the two.

Each State is responsible for selecting organizations to participate in the program, allocating foods and administrative funds among such organizations, and establishing eligibility criteria. Many local TEFAP agencies are faith-based organizations and many depend significantly on volunteers.

Administrative Funding

TEFAP administrative funds are provided to States under the CAP account to help defray State and local costs associated with the transportation, processing, storage, and distribution of USDA Foods or foods secured from other sources, including the private sector. Appropriations legislation has also permitted each State to convert up to fifteen percent of TEFAP food funds to administrative funds. Additionally, unless expressly prohibited by appropriations legislation, States can convert any amount of their administrative funds to food funds to purchase additional USDA Foods. States can also use administrative funds to support food rescue activities such as gleaned and other food recovery efforts. In these ways, administrative funds are efficiently leveraged to increase the total flow of food, from all sources, through the TEFAP network.

Entitlement Foods

A variety of healthful foods were purchased specifically for distribution in TEFAP in FY 2018.

Bonus Food

In FY 2018, USDA purchased USDA Foods under its market support authorities and donated them for distribution through TEFAP. The total amount of bonus products purchased in FY 2018 for distribution through TEFAP outlets was \$296.2 million. Bonus USDA Foods included: beans, beef, blueberries, catfish, cheese, cherries, chicken, lentils, milk, mixed fruit, peaches, plums, pork, potatoes, raspberry puree, spaghetti sauce, strawberry cups, tomato sauce, and turkey.

FY 2018 TEFAP Spending

In FY 2018, \$64.4 million was appropriated for TEFAP administrative funds, and the Secretary was authorized to make available up to fifteen percent of TEFAP food funds to support administrative costs. The FY 2018 appropriation for TEFAP entitlement food, provided in the SNAP account, was \$287.5 million, which included the funding authorized by Section 27(a)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 as amended by Section 4027 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill).

Table FNS-93. TEFAP Summary

(in millions)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State Administrative Expenses	\$64.3	\$69.1	\$74.0	\$77.9	\$83.3	\$90.7
Bonus Foods ¹	228.5	298.8	302.9	305.5	268.6	308.9
Entitlement Foods ²	247.2	268.0	320.9	320.0	297.0	287.5
TOTAL	\$540.0	\$635.9	\$703.9	\$703.7	\$667.9	\$687.1
Supplemental Disaster Funding (Hurricane Sandy)	\$5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplemental Disaster Funding (Hurricane and Wildfire Relief)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	\$24.0
<i>Total, Including Disaster Funding</i>	<i>\$545.7</i>	<i>\$635.9</i>	<i>\$703.9</i>	<i>\$703.7</i>	<i>\$667.9</i>	<i>\$711.1</i>

¹ Includes barter foods² From SNAP Account

The State Administrative Expenses shown in the table above include administrative funds, food funds converted to administrative funds, and administrative funds recovered from the previous year. In FY 2018, of the \$43.1 million eligible for conversion, States chose to convert \$25.9 million into administrative funds.

Section 27(a)(2)(C) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 required that, starting in FY 2010, the authorized level of TEFAP entitlement food funds provided under the SNAP account be adjusted annually by the percentage change in the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), which is also used to adjust the benefit level in SNAP. The entitlement foods line also includes administrative funds that States chose to use instead to increase their food entitlements. In FY 2018, \$64,214 of administrative funds were converted to food funds.

In FY 2018, \$24 million in supplemental funding was appropriated for TEFAP to be used for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria or due to wildfires in 2017. USDA allocated these funds to Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Texas, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to be used for TEFAP food, administrative funds, or as a combination of the two.

WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides a direct link between nutrition and the Nation's small resource farmers by providing women, infants older than 4 months, and children up to the age of 5 participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), coupons to purchase and consume fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs directly from farmers, farmers' markets and roadside stands. As a result, the FMNP has enhanced local agricultural economies by promoting the development of farmers' markets, which has increased the customer base for small local farmers. During Fiscal Year 2017, the FMNP was operated by 49 State agencies, U.S. Territories and federally recognized Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs).

In FY 2017, the last year for which data is available, the FMNP provided coupons to 1,739,716 WIC participants. The participants redeemed their coupons at 5,679 authorized farmers' markets and roadside stands, providing revenue to 16,815 farmers.

Table FNS-94. WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Funding (\$ in thousands)	\$18,723	\$19,633	\$19,667	\$21,043	\$22,291	\$22,950
WIC Recipients	1,559,312	1,635,261	1,701,816	1,650,791	1,739,716	*
Farmers' Markets**	6,080	6,415	6,284	5,669	5,679	*
Farmers	17,713	17,450	17,925	18,225	16,815	*

NOTE: Funding includes new authority and prior year resources.

*/ Data not yet available

**/ Farmers' Markets data includes roadside stands.

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) awards grants to States, U.S. Territories, and federally recognized Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) to provide low income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey directly from farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs (CSAs).

Farmers' markets play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support farmers and help grow rural economies. In FY 2017, the SFMNP provided coupons to 811,809 low-income older Americans. The participants redeemed their coupons at 6,276 authorized farmers markets, roadside stands and CSAs providing revenue to 19,449 farmers. The SFMNP benefits local farmers by increasing the sustainability of the land and of the local economy through bringing additional customers to their markets.

The 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized the SFMNP through 2018 at a level of \$20.6 million per year.

During FY 2017, the SFMNP operated in a total of 52 State agencies, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and federally-recognized Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs). One State agency, Delaware, was added in FY 2018.

Table FNS-95. SFMNP Summary

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Funding (\$ in thousands)	\$21,187	\$20,585	\$20,617	\$20,284	\$20,419	\$20,912
SFMNP Recipients	835,795	787,139	817,751	816,207	811,809	*
Farmers	20,617	20,248	20,329	20,129	19,449	*
Farmers' Markets	4,247	3,912	3,774	3,582	3,641	*
Roadside Stands	3,083	3,177	3,203	2,693	2,541	*
Community Supported Ag Programs	191	154	180	114	94	*

NOTE: Funding includes new authority and prior year resources.

* Data not yet available

Pacific Islands

Certain islands in nuclear-affected zones of the Republic of the Marshall Islands receive nutrition assistance as authorized by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-188). Under the terms of a memorandum of understanding between USDA and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the assistance is currently provided as cash in-lieu of USDA Foods and administrative funds. USDA previously provided nutrition assistance under this account to the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Disaster Assistance

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288) assigns certain responsibilities relating to disaster food assistance to the Secretary of Agriculture. Other duties have been assigned to the Secretary by Executive Order #12673. These include using, pursuant to the authority of the Act, funds appropriated under Section 32 to purchase USDA Foods for assistance in major disasters or emergencies when other food supplies are not readily available. Disaster relief funds may be provided to purchase USDA Foods for use in Presidentially-declared disasters in The Republic of the Marshall Islands and The Federated States of Micronesia. In FY 2018, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria caused extensive flooding and infrastructure damage.

In FY 2018, FNS continued to support disaster relief efforts resulting from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The support included using USDA Foods for congregate feeding in Puerto Rico and replacing the USDA Foods used for the hurricane responses in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and Georgia and for wildfires in California. In addition, during FY 2018, Hurricane Florence was declared a major disaster in North Carolina and South Carolina. FNS assisted in the relief efforts by providing USDA Foods for congregate feeding in both states to disaster victims.

Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)

NSIP provides cash and USDA Foods to States and Indian Tribal Organizations for distribution to local organizations that prepare nutritionally sound meals served through meals-on-wheels programs or in senior citizen centers and similar settings where the elderly participate in social and rehabilitative activities. The program promotes good health through nutrition assistance and by reducing the isolation experienced by the elderly.

In 2003, Congress transferred NSIP funding and the allocation of resources in this program from USDA to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). However, State Units on Aging, which include Indian Tribal Organizations, could still choose to receive all or part of their NSIP allotments in the form of USDA Foods. They are also eligible to receive bonus food, as available. USDA's role is to purchase and deliver food to States that elect to receive it. DHHS provides funding to USDA for purchases of USDA Foods and related administrative expenses. FNS and DHHS' Administration for Community Living enter into an agreement annually to ensure the effective provision of USDA Foods to State Units on Aging.

CSFP PROJECTS, PARTICIPATION AND FOOD COST FY 2018 (CSFP)**Table FNS-96. CSFP Projects, Participation and Food Costs**

State or Territory	Projects	Women	Infants	Children	Elderly	Total	Food Cost \$\$ ¹	Admin Cost \$\$ ²
Alaska.....	2	0	0	0	2,617	2,617	\$638,809	\$197,220
Arizona.....	2	0	0	0	15,523	15,523	3,590,063	1,505,075
Arkansas.....	5	0	0	0	5,755	5,755	1,391,069	459,077
California.....	10	0	0	5	96,949	96,954	23,844,718	7,442,023
Colorado.....	6	0	0	24	15,110	15,110	3,577,978	1,213,423
Connecticut.....	2	0	0	0	2,467	2,467	585,149	195,514
Delaware.....	1	0	0	0	2,124	2,124	525,820	172,335
District of Columbia.....	1	0	0	0	5,225	5,225	1,248,276	409,085
Florida.....	6	0	0	0	6,934	6,934	1,689,484	575,522
Georgia.....	2	0	0	0	5,472	5,472	1,325,382	423,865
Hawaii.....	4	0	0	0	3,544	3,544	855,224	297,952
Idaho.....	1	0	0	0	2,194	2,194	510,489	167,463
Illinois.....	3	0	0	0	17,185	17,185	4,100,473	1,231,397
Indiana.....	6	0	0	0	4,743	4,743	1,174,283	351,047
Iowa.....	1	0	0	0	3,295	3,295	750,662	256,257
Kansas.....	4	0	0	0	5,653	5,653	1,399,441	452,512
Kentucky.....	5	0	0	1	28,136	28,137	6,619,956	2,369,451
Louisiana.....	1	0	0	7	53,258	53,265	13,039,517	4,357,637
Maine.....	5	0	0	0	8,924	8,924	2,049,437	702,508
Maryland.....	2	0	0	0	2,759	2,759	679,787	212,835
Massachusetts.....	1	0	0	0	2,371	2,371	592,332	186,493
Michigan.....	22	0	0	31	71,111	71,142	17,046,865	5,757,458
Red Lake, Minnesota.....	1	0	0	0	84	84	19,292	6,395
Minnesota.....	5	0	0	0	14,120	14,120	3,376,271	1,106,603
Mississippi.....	1	0	0	0	12,503	12,503	3,015,014	937,195
Missouri.....	6	0	0	0	24,654	24,654	5,688,442	1,852,804
Montana.....	12	0	0	0	6,192	6,192	1,425,793	543,760
Nebraska.....	8	0	0	2	7,835	7,837	1,755,313	656,094
Nevada.....	3	0	0	0	7,203	7,203	1,667,503	586,791
New Hampshire.....	4	0	0	0	3,634	3,634	840,359	306,990
New Jersey.....	3	0	0	0	5,565	5,565	1,311,809	455,300
New Mexico.....	5	0	0	0	14,952	14,953	3,698,717	1,198,959
New York.....	3	0	0	0	31,333	31,333	7,353,372	2,507,760
North Carolina.....	5	0	0	0	7,545	7,545	1,824,431	697,732
North Dakota.....	5	0	0	0	1,890	1,890	455,372	146,682
Ohio.....	13	0	0	0	25,759	25,759	5,980,796	1,987,482
Oklahoma.....	2	0	0	0	3,564	3,564	828,549	251,941
Oklahoma (Seminole Nation).....	0	0	0	0	19	19	4,429	14,457
Oregon.....	7	0	0	0	2,350	2,350	554,332	188,586
Pennsylvania.....	17	0	0	0	35,474	35,474	8,630,999	2,755,529
Rhode Island.....	1	0	0	0	1,484	1,484	360,956	114,179
South Carolina.....	3	0	0	0	5,778	5,778	1,371,351	465,700
South Dakota.....	2	0	0	0	3,889	3,889	916,540	310,035
Oglala Sioux, S.D.....	1	0	0	2	444	446	101,892	36,138
Tennessee.....	4	0	0	0	11,241	11,241	2,673,511	975,863
Texas.....	10	0	0	0	53,337	53,337	13,102,066	4,386,640
Utah.....	1	0	0	0	3,014	3,014	744,909	235,226
Vermont.....	1	0	0	0	2,389	2,389	598,467	205,485
Virginia.....	4	0	0	0	5,955	5,955	1,497,222	785,935
Washington.....	11	0	0	0	5,844	5,844	1,402,885	455,786
West Virginia.....	2	0	0	0	4,721	4,721	1,140,196	380,599
Wisconsin.....	4	0	0	0	11,821	11,821	2,823,023	864,353

2020 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

State or Territory	Projects	Women	Infants	Children	Elderly	Total	Food Cost \$\$¹	Admin Cost \$\$²
Wyoming.....	0	0	0	0	10	10	2,512	4,203
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,436,634	0
Anticipated Adjustment.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,262,700	515,774
TOTAL³	236	0	0	72	675,926	675,998	187,100,875	54,873,125

¹ Total value of FNS funded entitlement foods. Costs do not include free or bonus commodities, food losses, storage and transportation for certain items, or the value of food used for nutrition education.

² Total outlays and unliquidated obligations

³ Totals may not add due to rounding

NOTE: These data are based in part on preliminary reports submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revisions are received.

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)

Table FNS-97. FY 2018 CSFP Quantity and Value of Commodities

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Applesauce, Canned, Unsweetened	2,159,663	\$1,372,308
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	1,129,950	992,185
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium.....	3,518,824	1,416,290
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium.....	2,093,040	863,440
Beans, Dry, Baby Lima, No Salt Added.....	1,048,320	1,064,530
Beans, Dry, Great Northern, No Salt Added.....	1,359,840	648,367
Beans, Dry, Light Red Kidney, No Salt Added	1,653,120	1,016,230
Beans, Dry, Pinto, No Salt Added	2,244,960	1,000,747
Beef, Canned.....	1,710,000	4,298,868
Beef, Canned, Chili	1,800,000	2,028,357
Beef, Canned, Stew	2,957,400	2,877,933
Carrots, Canned, Low-Sodium	1,275,750	667,420
Cereal, Corn and Rice.....	1,289,736	2,149,643
Cereal, Corn Flakes	2,010,924	2,077,989
Cereal, Corn Squares	1,834,560	4,045,444
Cereal, Oat Circles.....	2,296,644	2,363,942
Cereal, Rice Crisps	1,996,848	2,564,814
Cereal, Wheat Bran Flakes	1,756,755	1,743,128
Cereal, Wheat Shredded	785,970	656,160
Cheese Blend, American, Skim, Loaves.....	16,889,400	27,206,400
Chicken, White Meat, Canned.....	2,232,000	3,396,382
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added	4,330,276	1,991,083
Farina.....	2,008,125	1,507,391
Grits.....	728,280	184,405
Juice, Bottled, Apple, Unsweetened	21,818,278	9,706,845
Juice, Bottled, Cranapple, Unsweetened.....	16,302,060	8,601,967
Juice, Bottled, Grape, Unsweetened	15,966,240	7,179,453
Juice, Bottled, Orange, Unsweetened	16,158,510	10,464,720
Juice, Bottled, Tomato, Unsweetened.....	6,723,778	2,094,824
Milk, 1% UHT.....	35,178,971	12,406,489
Milk, Instant, Nonfat Dry	6,572,160	10,236,970
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	2,931,638	2,093,471
Mixed Vegetables, Canned, Low-Sodium	3,535,650	2,090,794
Oats	4,065,624	2,306,819
Pasta, Enriched	8,993,160	4,095,743
Pasta, Whole Grain.....	1,101,600	592,308
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	2,413,800	1,655,635
Peanut Butter	6,001,560	5,997,637
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	2,077,650	1,458,826
Peas, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	3,235,500	1,653,435
Plums, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	692,550	438,453
Potatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	2,295,000	934,249
Rice	5,496,000	2,037,228
Salmon, Canned.....	2,006,583	4,719,024
Spaghetti Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	3,125,588	1,402,649
Spinach, Canned, Low-Sodium	1,220,940	923,941
Sweet Potatoes, Canned, Light Syrup.....	1,962,225	1,443,469
Tomatoes, Canned, No Salt Added.....	2,142,593	911,519
Tuna, Chunk Light, Canned.....	2,775,762	7,066,718
SUBTOTAL.....	235,903,801	\$170,646,638
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment.....	0	14,017,603
Anticipated Adjustment.....	0	2,436,634
TOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT.....	235,903,801	\$187,100,875

WIC FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM, PARTICIPATION AND PROGRAM COSTS FY 2017 AND 2018**Table FNS-98. Participation and Program Financing for FY 2017 and 2018**

State or Territory	Women	Infants	Children	Total	FY 2017 Grant	FY 2018 Grant
Alabama	1,856	0	5,576	7,432	\$113,343	\$113,343
Alaska.....	2,818	1,728	5,669	10,215	185,379	185,379
Arizona.....	2,809	0	6,585	9,394	193,885	193,885
Arkansas.....	4,714	0	8,684	13,398	156,599	156,599
California.....	77,325	73,142	193,230	343,697	2,063,983	2,063,983
Connecticut.....	11,512	0	32,226	43,738	299,230	299,230
Delaware.....	3,411	0	9,354	12,765	262,093	262,093
District of Columbia.....	4,126	0	6,846	10,972	283,121	283,121
Florida.....	9,686	0	19,105	28,791	285,964	285,964
Georgia.....	9,491	4,475	17,367	31,333	1,242,658	1,424,577
Guam.....	1,057	0	2,217	3,274	78,911	78,911
Illinois.....	9,084	0	16,309	25,393	363,653	363,653
Indiana.....	5,960	0	11,031	16,991	238,853	238,853
Iowa.....	9,289	0	32,153	41,442	468,191	468,191
Kentucky.....	2,576	343	7,180	10,099	185,361	185,361
Louisiana.....	226	61	326	613	10,250	10,250
Maine.....	1,696	122	5,950	7,768	75,000	75,000
Maryland.....	22,706	6,176	26,222	55,104	358,628	358,628
Massachusetts.....	7,673	3,421	20,587	31,681	520,995	589,635
Michigan.....	7,686	0	21,225	28,911	450,777	450,777
Minnesota.....	12,562	6,260	31,415	50,237	320,000	355,000
Mississippi ¹	2,115	107	4,112	6,334	116,357	116,357
Montana.....	570	0	1,600	2,170	59,782	59,782
Nebraska.....	1,633	0	3,326	4,959	75,000	75,000
Nevada.....	2,611	0	5,504	8,115	344,117	344,117
New Jersey.....	19,879	0	23,985	43,864	1,056,954	1,056,954
New Mexico ¹	2,525	900	5,522	8,947	266,130	266,130
New York.....	104,560	78,944	159,922	343,426	3,803,537	3,985,456
North Carolina.....	5,140	0	6,711	11,851	233,600	233,600
Ohio.....	6,489	2,314	16,187	24,990	447,916	447,916
Oklahoma Chickasaw.....	603	314	1,471	2,388	75,000	75,000
Oklahoma Osage Tribe.....	405	631	1,011	2,047	41,325	51,325
Oklahoma Choctaw Nation.....	509	297	1,269	2,075	75,000	75,000
Oregon.....	10,683	6,533	26,028	43,244	566,205	748,124
Pennsylvania.....	55,558	0	118,062	173,620	2,062,427	2,062,427
Puerto Rico.....	17,663		52,730	70,393	1,554,783	1,554,783
Rhode Island.....	3,484	0	8,887	12,371	125,787	125,787
South Carolina.....	5,290	9,949	15,239	30,478	126,899	126,899
Tennessee.....	4,189	22	6,451	10,662	125,000	125,000
Texas.....	9,413	0	19,022	28,435	1,054,646	1,054,646
Vermont.....	427	161	1,469	2,057	75,282	75,282
Virginia.....	1,018	752	1,779	3,549	63,766	63,766
Virgin Islands.....	485	4	1,088	1,577	77,791	77,791
Washington.....	12,659	0	30,868	43,527	800,003	800,003
West Virginia.....	1,243	720	2,290	4,253	74,965	74,965
Wisconsin.....	20,442	4,014	46,679	71,135	831,969	831,969
Anticipated Adjustment.....	0	0	0	0	770,874	1,701
TOTAL.....	497,856	201,390	1,040,469	1,739,715	\$23,061,989	\$22,952,213

¹ Participation data reflects Fiscal Year 2017.² Includes Indian Tribal Organizations.

NOTE: These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COSTS FY 2018 (TEFAP)**Table FNS-99. Administrative Funds/Entitlement and Bonus Commodities**

State or Territory	TEFAP Admin	Disaster Supplemental Admin Funds	Entitlement	Bonus	Disaster Supplemental Commodities	Total Food	Total Admin/Food
Alabama.....	\$1,217,963	0	\$4,744,082	\$5,822,738	\$311,911	\$10,878,731	\$12,096,694
Alaska.....	171,414	0	560,463	936,974	0	1,497,436	1,668,850
Arizona.....	2,524,909	0	5,638,188	7,526,725	0	13,164,913	15,689,822
Arkansas.....	596,306	0	2,615,764	3,577,216	0	6,192,980	6,789,286
California.....	12,569,404	\$300,000	30,718,941	34,495,701	0	65,214,642	78,084,046
Colorado.....	1,300,343	0	2,941,561	4,189,893	0	7,131,454	8,431,797
Connecticut.....	537,089	0	2,590,439	2,534,865	0	5,125,304	5,662,393
Delaware.....	166,233	0	718,187	1,642,912	0	2,361,099	2,527,332
District of Columbia.....	183,665	0	775,687	678,682	0	1,454,369	1,638,034
Florida.....	5,408,370	2,000,738	17,487,479	18,070,284	1,876,093	37,433,857	44,842,965
Georgia.....	2,637,137	448,218	9,869,286	9,852,591	124,085	19,845,962	22,931,317
Hawaii.....	177,600	0	855,179	183,538	0	1,038,717	1,216,317
Idaho.....	320,100	0	1,211,231	692,108	0	1,903,339	2,223,439
Illinois.....	3,063,377	0	9,602,344	11,675,294	0	21,277,638	24,341,015
Indiana.....	1,191,015	0	5,237,355	6,710,236	0	11,947,591	13,138,606
Iowa.....	523,114	0	2,184,111	2,695,464	0	4,879,576	5,402,690
Kansas.....	628,599	0	1,722,453	2,405,551	0	4,128,004	4,756,603
Kentucky.....	1,501,002	0	4,034,079	5,316,610	0	9,350,689	10,851,691
Louisiana.....	1,593,742	0	4,813,276	5,969,508	0	10,782,785	12,376,527
Maine.....	221,454	0	1,014,421	1,434,237	0	2,448,659	2,670,113
Maryland.....	1,277,223	0	3,729,028	3,062,397	0	6,791,425	8,068,648
Massachusetts.....	1,093,733	0	4,868,283	3,145,532	0	8,013,815	9,107,548
Michigan.....	3,383,278	0	7,639,305	11,826,805	0	19,466,110	22,849,388
Minnesota.....	1,181,519	0	3,282,190	3,812,537	0	7,094,727	8,276,246
Mississippi.....	1,247,112	0	2,738,922	3,509,486	0	6,248,408	7,495,520
Missouri.....	1,653,928	0	4,456,764	5,684,197	0	10,140,960	11,794,888
Montana.....	255,746	0	687,093	424,277	0	1,111,369	1,367,115
Nebraska.....	479,989	0	1,300,346	1,278,001	0	2,578,347	3,058,336
Nevada.....	624,865	0	2,527,180	3,349,295	0	5,876,475	6,501,340
New Hampshire.....	197,977	0	673,665	724,233	0	1,397,898	1,595,875
New Jersey.....	2,447,049	0	5,832,212	6,779,017	0	12,611,228	15,058,277
New Mexico.....	930,371	0	2,152,800	3,107,423	0	5,260,223	6,190,594
New York.....	5,906,597	0	16,066,033	18,436,722	0	34,502,755	40,409,352
North Carolina.....	2,621,075	0	8,069,969	10,401,133	0	18,471,102	21,092,177
North Dakota.....	143,900	0	426,475	690,229	0	1,116,703	1,260,603
Ohio.....	3,201,694	0	9,492,432	12,223,855	0	21,716,286	24,917,980
Oklahoma.....	815,293	0	3,448,460	3,982,524	0	7,430,984	8,246,277
Oregon.....	750,090	0	3,338,617	3,359,278	0	6,697,895	7,447,985
Pennsylvania.....	3,203,051	0	10,277,885	11,159,813	0	21,437,698	24,640,749
Rhode Island.....	198,239	0	893,613	716,076	0	1,609,689	1,807,928
South Carolina.....	1,168,889	100,0000	4,067,848	4,157,638	0	8,225,486	9,494,375
South Dakota.....	233,500	0	539,505	492,650	0	1,032,154	1,265,654
Tennessee.....	1,896,265	0	5,526,449	6,680,816	0	12,207,264	14,103,529
Texas.....	9,481,991	1,322,065	21,996,477	27,641,305	0	49,637,782	60,441,838
Utah.....	721,731	0	1,698,199	1,831,606	0	3,529,804	4,251,535
Vermont.....	122,071	0	322,739	915,055	0	1,237,794	1,359,865
Virginia.....	2,232,858	0	4,944,224	4,742,380	0	9,686,604	11,919,462
Washington.....	2,105,216	0	5,108,306	4,785,228	0	9,893,534	11,998,750
West Virginia.....	684,660	0	1,487,885	2,170,500	0	3,658,385	4,343,045
Wisconsin.....	1,314,722	0	3,711,096	4,795,811	0	8,506,907	9,821,629
Wyoming.....	143,166	0	454,077	513,769	0	967,846	1,111,012
Northern Mariana Islands ¹	34,566	0	150,939	0	0	150,939	185,505

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State or Territory	TEFAP Admin	Disaster Supplemental Admin Funds	Entitlement	Bonus	Disaster Supplemental Commodities	Total Food	Total Admin/Food
Guam.....	83,749	0	252,535	196,259	0	448,795	532,544
Puerto Rico.....	2,268,199	1,058,980	4,912,411	3,201,626	0	8,114,037	11,441,216
Virgin Islands.....	41,393	25,000	172,296	19,764	0	192,060	258,453
Commodity Barter/Exchange.....	0	0	0	12,703,434	0	12,703,434	12,703,434
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment.....	0	0	3,316,841	0	0	0	0
Anticipated Adjustment.....	(23,785)	0	439,556	0	(483,090)	3,273,307	3,249,522
TOTAL.....	\$90,654,756	\$5,255,001	\$260,337,181	\$308,931,793	\$1,828,999	\$571,097,973	\$661,752,729

^u Cash in-Lieu of commodities are provided to the Northern Mariana Islands.

Source: WBSCM – Sales Order and contract information

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)**Table FNS-100. FY 2018 TEFAP Quantity and Value of Commodities**

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Apples, Fresh.....	3,119,340	\$1,538,128
Apples, Frozen, Unsweetened	435,600	435,649
Applesauce, Canned, Unsweetened	7,827,638	5,081,303
Applesauce, Cups, Unsweetened	1,814,400	1,114,832
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	1,093,500	1,023,263
Beans, Canned, Black, Low-Sodium	4,019,693	1,600,839
Beans, Canned, Black-Eyed Pea, Low-Sodium	2,490,075	1,143,553
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium.....	15,688,384	6,301,802
Beans, Canned, Light Red Kidney, Low-Sodium	3,521,678	1,492,037
Beans, Canned, Pinto, Low-Sodium	3,343,815	1,298,251
Beans, Canned, Refried, Low-Sodium.....	2,533,680	1,100,206
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium	3,929,040	1,574,970
Beans, Dry, Black-Eyed Pea, No Salt Added	282,240	299,242
Beans, Dry, Great Northern, No Salt Added.....	2,207,520	1,065,406
Beans, Dry, Lima, No Salt Added	322,560	323,408
Beans, Dry, Light Red Kidney, No Salt Added	483,840	292,197
Beans, Dry, Pinto, No Salt Added	2,979,840	1,277,789
Beef, Canned, Stew	11,766,600	11,479,868
Beef, Canned	1,098,000	2,764,257
Beef, Fine Ground, Frozen	2,736,000	6,693,731
Beef, Fine Ground, Frozen, LFTB Optional	880,000	2,237,352
Carrots, Canned, Low-Sodium	1,530,900	867,575
Carrots, Frozen, No Salt Added.....	792,000	443,810
Catfish, Fillets, Unbreaded	152,000	565,060
Cereal, Corn Flakes	2,216,160	2,271,062
Cereal, Corn Rice Biscuits.....	294,840	487,372
Cereal, Corn Squares	42,336	93,032
Cereal, Oat Circles.....	4,205,376	4,329,953
Cereal, Rice Crisps	1,838,592	2,349,789
Cereal, Shredded Wheat	1,250,910	1,038,648
Cereal, Wheat, Bran Flakes	733,670	755,072
Cheese Blend, American, Skim	1,881,000	3,098,494
Chicken, White Meat, Canned.....	4,176,000	6,306,115
Chicken, Split Breast	1,404,000	3,637,308
Chicken, Whole.....	15,150,800	12,842,095
Corn, Canned, Cream, Low-Sodium.....	2,551,500	1,274,463
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added	14,606,193	6,428,902
Crackers, Unsalted.....	96,720	331,950
Egg Mix, Dry.....	108,000	856,332
Eggs, Fresh.....	3,915,000	3,065,805
Farina.....	1,013,625	707,116
Flour, All-Purpose	2,998,800	745,802
Flour Mix, Bakery, Low-Fat.....	117,830	129,661
Flour White Whole Wheat.....	120,000	25,360
Fruit and Nut Mix, Dried.....	314,496	1,036,439
Grits.....	3,470,040	908,949
Juice, Bottled, Apple, Unsweetened	6,331,442	2,878,445
Juice, Bottled, Cherry Apple, Unsweetened	1,961,850	948,756
Juice, Bottled, Cranapple, Unsweetened.....	1,783,500	941,032
Juice, Bottled, Grape Concord, Unsweetened	1,747,830	833,233
Juice, Bottled, Grapefruit, Unsweetened.....	71,340	44,157
Juice, Bottled, Orange, Unsweetened	2,247,210	1,440,522
Juice, Bottled, Tomato, Unsweetened.....	945,272	267,453

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ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Lentils, Dry.....	2,096,640	943,346
Macaroni and Cheese.....	5,328,663	4,254,739
Milk, 1% UHT.....	23,608,380	8,947,921
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	10,100,813	7,412,346
Mixed Vegetables, Canned, Low-Sodium	8,381,543	4,997,534
Oats	3,948,912	2,184,918
Oil, Vegetable.....	5,950,098	3,314,796
Pasta, Enriched.....	20,267,120	10,098,678
Pasta, Whole Grain.....	8,233,200	3,432,857
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	10,346,625	7,345,163
Peanut Butter	10,060,200	10,053,119
Peanuts, Roasted, No Salt Added	259,200	368,842
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	7,959,600	5,744,717
Pears, Fresh	2,000,340	1,336,528
Peas, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	7,090,808	3,636,901
Peas, Frozen, No Salt Added	514,800	341,114
Plums, Dried.....	144,000	247,380
Pork, Canned	3,204,000	4,766,245
Pork, Ham, Frozen.....	3,060,000	5,025,420
Potatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	8,023,320	3,290,368
Potatoes, Dehydrated.....	4,800,000	4,881,221
Potatoes, Fresh.....	6,680,000	1,805,380
Pumpkin, Canned, No Salt Added	510,300	401,161
Rice, Brown.....	1,596,000	1,215,820
Rice, White.....	21,126,000	7,918,029
Salmon, Canned, Pink	2,567,097	6,019,588
Soup, Vegetable, Canned, Low-Sodium	3,937,725	3,133,273
Soup, Cream of Chicken, Reduced Sodium	2,044,350	2,216,718
Soup, Cream of Mushroom, Reduced Sodium.....	519,908	549,206
Soup, Tomato, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	2,767,050	1,786,422
Spaghetti Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	14,534,438	6,343,274
Spinach, Canned, Low-Sodium	2,543,625	1,899,623
Sweet Potatoes, Canned, Light Syrup.....	757,350	508,463
Tomato Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium	6,781,725	3,124,061
Tomatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium	9,421,230	3,992,792
Tortillas, Whole Grain-Rich	684,000	591,731
Tuna, Chunk Light.....	3,988,638	10,212,310
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>378,480,370</i>	<i>\$256,429,845</i>
Anticipated Adjustment.....	0	\$439,556
Cash-In-Lieu of Commodities – CNMI	0	150,939
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment.....	0	3,316,841
<i>TOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT</i>	<i>378,480,370</i>	<i>\$260,337,181</i>

Source: WBSCM – Sales Order and contract information

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)**Table FNS-101. FY 2018 TEFAP Quantity and Value of Commodities Continued**

BONUS COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Beans, Canned, Black, Low-Sodium	15,331,748	\$6,436,667
Beans, Dry, Split Pea, No Salt Added.....	51,468,000	21,886,718
Beans, Dry, Great Northern, No Salt Added.....	10,160,640	4,726,285
Beans, Dry, Pinto, No Salt Added	22,699,200	10,751,056
Beef, Fine Ground, Frozen	2,200,000	6,801,152
Blueberries, Highbush, Frozen	6,850,000	8,489,548
Blueberries, Wild, Frozen.....	8,535,840	9,329,598
Catfish, Fillets, Unbreaded	6,384,000	29,694,340
Cheese, Cheddar, Chunks	718,200	1,708,197
Cheese, Cheddar, Shredded	8,627,220	18,138,931
Cherries, Dried	5,410,624	24,782,021
Chicken, Drumsticks, Frozen.....	8,474,000	3,773,117
Chicken, Leg Quarters, Frozen	6,802,000	3,168,451
Chicken, Thighs, Frozen.....	9,804,000	3,835,759
Chicken, Whole	22,770,000	17,942,217
Lentils, Dry.....	24,191,040	9,698,112
Milk, 1% Fresh	13,440,735	4,082,859
Milk, 2%, Fresh	24,298,056	7,946,164
Milk, Skim, Fresh	7,514,573	2,009,493
Milk, Whole, Fresh.....	17,728,470	6,402,826
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	7,217,100	6,674,999
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	7,290,000	6,635,245
Peanut Butter ¹	12,623,040	12,703,434
Plums, Dried	6,947,040	11,884,605
Pork Chops, Boneless, Frozen	5,700,000	17,210,303
Pork, Ham, Frozen.....	2,124,000	3,750,840
Pork, Pulled	920,000	1,767,532
Potatoes, Fresh.....	9,760,000	2,993,072
Raspberry, Red Puree, Frozen	576,000	920,643
Spaghetti Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	18,990,450	8,938,755
Strawberry, Cup, Frozen.....	10,697,400	14,821,898
Tomato Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium	13,701,150	6,424,516
Turkey, Roasts, Frozen.....	4,560,000	12,602,440
TOTAL BONUS COMMODITIES	374,515,325	\$308,931,793
DA SUPPLEMENTAL COMMODITIES		
Beef, Canned, Stew	900,000	\$939,661
Beef, Canned	288,000	702,907
Pork, Canned	468,000	669,521
Anticipated Adjustment.....	0	-483,090
TOTAL DA SUPPLEMENTAL COMMODITIES	1,656,000	\$1,828,999
TOTAL – ALL COMMODITIES		
Entitlement Commodities.....	378,480,370	\$260,337,181
Bonus Commodities.....	374,515,325	308,931,793
DA Supplemental Commodities.....	1,656,000	1,828,999
GRAND TOTAL- TEFAP	754,651,695	\$571,097,973

Source: WBSCM – Sales Order and contract information

NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP)

Table FNS-102. FY 2018 NSIP Quantity and Value of Commodities

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Apples, Canned, Unsweetened	107,484	\$85,738
Applesauce, Canned, Unsweetened	91,425	59,269
Applesauce, Cups, Unsweetened	38,475	25,646
Beans, Canned, Garbanzo, Low-Sodium	34,992	12,476
Beans, Canned, Great Northern, Low-Sodium.....	34,992	11,180
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium.....	35,606	11,388
Beans, Canned, Pinto, Low Sodium	810	256
Beans, Canned, Refried, Low-Sodium.....	840	352
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium	35,802	13,254
Beef, Fine Ground, 85/15, Frozen	296,200	716,420
Cheese, Cheddar, Shredded	300	543
Cheese, Cheddar, Bulk for Processing.....	81,600	144,081
Cheese, American, Slices	300	458
Cheese, Mozzarella, Shredded, Lite.....	300	480
Chicken, Bulk for Processing	324,000	306,277
Chicken, Cut Up, Frozen	80,000	86,480
Chicken, Diced, Cooked Frozen	15,800	30,468
Chicken, Fajita Strips, Cooked, Frozen	300	468
Chicken Breast Fillet, Frozen	39,750	100,957
Chicken, Unseasoned Strips, Cooked, Frozen	39,000	76,674
Cranberries, Dried, Individual Portion.....	435	1,050
Egg, Patty, Frozen	625	1,263
Flour White Whole Wheat, Enriched Blend	3,840	1,119
Fruit Mix, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	37,246	22,316
Fruit Mix, Dried	250	844
Oil, Vegetable.....	36,960	21,969
Pasta, Whole Grain Rich.....	40,000	14,716
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	182,254	115,775
Peanut Butter	51,840	0
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	253,156	171,521
Pork, Bulk for Processing.....	20,010	23,316
Pork, Pulled, Frozen	68,600	126,438
Pork, Ham, Frozen.....	20,400	32,560
Pork, Leg Roast, Frozen	40,000	52,000
Strawberry, Cup, Frozen.....	37,800	53,550
Tomato Sauce, Canned/Pouch, Low-Sodium.....	148,008	55,331
Tomatoes, Canned, Diced, No Salt Added.....	34,884	13,206
Tuna, Canned.....	249	559
Turkey, Roast, Frozen	40,000	78,000
Turkey, Taco Filling	600	858
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>2,272,132</i>	<i>\$2,469,253</i>
Anticipated Adjustment.....	0	\$356,128
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment.....	0	22,927
<i>TOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT</i>	<i>2,272,132</i>	<i>\$2,848,308</i>

NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP)***Table FNS-103. FY 2018 NSIP Quantity and Value of Commodities Continued***

BONUS COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Beans, Dry, Split Pea, No Salt Added.....	20,640	6,991
Beans, Dry, Pinto, No Salt Added	960	478
Blueberries, Wild, Frozen.....	35,040	36,715
Cheese, Cheddar, Shredded	12,780	25,899
Cherries, Dried	29,888	137,376
Lentils, Dry.....	41,280	18,590
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	72,900	69,984
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	72,900	67,586
Plums, Dried.....	36,960	69,095
Pork Chops, Frozen	38,000	129,200
Pork, Pulled, Frozen	40,000	78,128
Spaghetti Sauce, Low-Sodium.....	36,450	16,006
Strawberry, Cup, Frozen.....	113,400	157,850
Tomato Sauce, Canned/Pouch, Low-Sodium.....	34,425	16,065
<i>TOTAL BONUS COMMODITIES</i>	<i>585,623</i>	<i>\$829,961</i>
<i>GRAND TOTAL NSIP</i>	<i>2,857,755</i>	<i>\$3,678,269</i>

Source: WBSCM – Sales Order and contract information

NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP)

Table FNS-104. FY 2018 NSIP Entitlement and Bonus

State or Territory	Entitlement	Bonus	TOTAL
Delaware.....	\$197,967	\$248,833	\$446,801
Idaho.....	30,467	0	30,467
Kansas	205,222	147,992	353,214
Massachusetts.....	1,690,367	428,455	2,118,822
Montana.....	275,976	0	275,976
Nevada.....	53,110	4,681	57,791
Oklahoma	16,144	0	16,144
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expense	356,128	0	356,128
Anticipated Adjustment.....	22,927	0	22,927
TOTAL.....	\$2,848,308	\$829,961	\$3,678,269

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FEEDING (DA)

Table FNS-105. FY 2018 DA Feeding Quantity and Value of Commodities

State or Territory	Entitlement	Bonus	TOTAL
California.....	\$201,080	0	\$201,080
Florida	2,606,833	0	2,606,833
Georgia.....	21,283	0	21,283
Puerto Rico.....	6,845,555	0	6,845,555
Texas	625,462	0	625,462
Anticipated Adjustment.....	0	0	0
TOTAL.....	\$10,300,213	\$0	\$10,300,213

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FEEDING (DA)

Table FNS-106. FY 2018 DA Feeding Quantity and Value of Commodities

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Apples, Canned, Unsweetened	35,568	\$26,311
Applesauce, Canned, Unsweetened	253,764	143,795
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium	313,641	121,667
Beef, Canned	360,000	885,845
Beef, Bulk for Processing	126,000	291,749
Cereal, Corn Flakes	29,160	28,081
Cheese, Cheddar, Bulk for Processing	1,305,600	2,159,267
Chicken, White Meat, Canned	180,000	277,665
Chicken, Whole, Frozen	39,600	34,016
Corn, Canned, Cream Style, Low-Sodium	36,540	17,188
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added	397,557	184,585
Egg Mix, Dry	216,000	1,725,984
Flour, All-Purpose, Enriched	342,720	85,316
Juice, Bottled, Cranberry Apple, Unsweetened	142,680	76,486
Milk, 1% UHT	1,367,864	491,559
Milk, Evaporated, Canned, Skim	37,179	25,204
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	1,051,704	689,082
Mixed Vegetables, Canned, Low-Sodium	19,958	11,354
Oil, Vegetable	37,422	25,073
Pasta, Enriched	71,040	46,602
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	1,441,295	989,270
Peanut Butter	38,880	51,710
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	757,782	521,694
Peas, Canned, Low-Sodium	16,493	8,723
Pork, Canned	288,000	435,744
Potatoes, Dehydrated	30,000	37,025
Rice, Brown	798,000	612,700
Rice, White	252,000	97,222
Salmon, Canned	67,260	161,230
Tomato Sauce, Canned/Pouch, Low-Sodium	68,850	38,066
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>10,122,467</i>	<i>\$10,300,213</i>
Anticipated Transportation, Storage, and Handling	0	0
Anticipated Adjustment	0	0
<i>TOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT</i>	<i>10,122,467</i>	<i>\$10,300,213</i>

Source: WBSCM – Sales Order and contract information

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-107. Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2019 Annualized Continuing Resolution.....	\$153,841,000
Change in Appropriation	-1,800,000
Budget Estimate, 2020.....	<u>152,041,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, \$152,041,000.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Table FNS-108. NPA Project Statement (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))

Item	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Discretionary											
Appropriations:											
FNS Salaries and Expenses.....	\$135,808	863	\$137,290	808	\$136,622	840	-\$2,969	(1)	-3	\$133,653	837
Congressional Hunger Center	2,000		2,000		2,000		-2,000	(2)		-	
Child Nutrition Study	1,000		-		-		-			-	
Decentralized GSA & Security Payments ..	14,208		14,551		15,219		-331	(3)		14,888	
Risk Reduction / IT Modernization	-		-		-		+3,500	(4)		3,500	
Office Relocation (Direct Approp).....	17,700		-		-					-	
Total Appropriation	170,716	863	153,841	808	153,841	840	-1,800		-3	152,041	837
Transfers In:											
Congr. Relations.....	150	-	180	-	-	-				-	-
Reimbursements	286	-	394	-	-	-				-	-
Transfers Out:.....											
Working Capital	-	-	-1,212	-	-	-				-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-	-	17,700	-	16,786	-				-	-
Total Available	171,152	863	170,903	808	170,627	840				152,041	837
Lapsing Balances.....	-2,154	-	-3,495	-	-	-				-	-
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-17,700	-	-16,786	-	-	-				-	-
Total Obligations	151,298	863	150,622	808	170,627	840				152,041	837
Congr. Relations.....	-150	-	-180	-	-	-				-	-
Reimbursements	-286	-	-394	-	-	-				-	-
Direct Obligations.....	150,862	863	150,048	808	170,627	840				152,041	837

FY 2020 NPA Cost Allocation to FNS Programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \$76,020,000
- Child Nutrition Programs \$39,531,000
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) \$19,765,000
- Commodity Assistance Program \$16,725,000

The Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA) funds operating expenses for administering the nutrition assistance programs of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In addition, funds support the Agency's rent, working capital fund charges, shared cost charges, audit, human resources systems, and more than half of the Agency's staff. It also includes the work of the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP). CNPP is an organization within USDA's FNS mission area.

The numbered justifications items are keyed to the Change Key (Chg Key) column on the Project Statement.

In addition to the activities and functions specifically described in the budget request, current year and budget year base funds will be used to carry out activities and functions consistent with the full range of authorities and activities delegated to the Agency.

A net decrease of \$1,800,000 for Nutrition Programs Administration (\$153,841,000 available in FY 2019) consisting of:

The numbers of the following listing relates to the values in the Chg Key column of the Project Statement:

- 1) A decrease of \$2,969,000 and 3 staff years in FNS Salaries and Expenses (\$136,622,000 and 840 staff years available in FY 2019). The funding change includes lower personnel compensation and benefits driven by a reduction of three staff years and cost savings with non-Federal contracts.
- 2) A decrease of \$2,000,000 for the Congressional Hunger Center (\$2,000,000 available in FY 2019). The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) was established in 1993 with the purpose of combating hunger and poverty at the community, national, and international levels. CHC is a 501(c)(3) foundation that receives donations from a variety of individuals and corporate sponsors.
- 3) A decrease of \$331,000 for Decentralized GSA and Security Payments (\$15,219,000 available in FY 2019). FNS projects rent savings due to the relocation of the Headquarters office expected to occur mid-year of FY 2020. Some of those savings are offset by rising security costs in the new location.
- 4) An increase of \$3,500,000 for risk reduction and information technology modernization (\$0 available in FY 2019). The increase reflects moving Agency systems to the cloud environment.
 - To adhere to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) requirement in regard to the Data Center Optimization Initiative (DCOI), FNS plans to close its remaining data center in Dallas, Texas and migrate its contents and applications to a cloud service or the USDA National Information Technology Center (NITC) shared-service.
 - This effort complies with the Executive Order Enhancing the Effectiveness of Agency Chief Information Officers dated May 15, 2018. This also would fulfill the data center requirements of the 2014 Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA). This estimate is to close the Disaster Recovery data center in Dallas and conduct the evaluation and preparatory activities to host FNS applications in cloud environments.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND STAFF YEARS*Table FNS-109. NPA Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))*

State/Territory/Country	2017 Actual	SY	2018 Actual	SY	2019 Estimate	SY	2020 Budget	SY
Arizona.....	\$265	2	\$138	1	\$140	1	\$140	1
California	9,000	67	9,395	66	9,568	69	9,534	68
Colorado.....	9,415	71	9,900	70	10,083	72	10,047	72
District of Columbia.....	265	2	276	2	281	2	280	2
Florida.....	265	2	276	2	281	2	280	2
Georgia.....	9,334	70	9,533	67	9,709	70	9,674	69
Illinois	8,436	63	8,660	61	8,820	63	8,788	63
Indiana	-	-	46	-	47	-	47	-
Iowa	127	1	138	1	140	1	140	1
Louisiana.....	127	1	138	1	140	1	140	1
Maine	265	2	138	1	140	1	140	1
Maryland.....	265	2	149	1	152	1	152	1
Massachusetts	7,515	56	7,477	53	7,615	55	7,588	54
Michigan	196	1	149	1	152	1	152	1
Minnesota.....	334	3	138	1	140	1	140	1
Mississippi	127	1	138	1	140	1	140	1
Missouri	322	2	276	2	281	2	280	2
Nebraska	92	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Jersey.....	9,230	69	9,269	65	9,439	68	9,406	68
New Mexico.....	173	1	126	1	129	1	128	1
New York.....	1,301	10	1,413	10	1,439	10	1,434	10
North Carolina	679	5	574	4	585	4	583	4
North Dakota.....	127	1	138	1	140	1	140	1
Oregon	127	1	184	1	187	1	186	1
Pennsylvania	806	6	930	7	947	7	944	7
Tennessee.....	184	1	184	1	187	1	186	1
Texas	8,379	63	7,948	56	8,094	58	8,065	58
Utah.....	391	3	425	3	433	3	431	3
Virginia.....	82,014	348	80,846	321	100,153	335	81,815	335
Washington	184	1	138	1	140	1	140	1
West Virginia.....	265	2	207	1	211	2	210	2
Wisconsin.....	265	2	276	2	281	2	280	2
Puerto Rico.....	391	3	425	3	433	3	431	3
Undistributed.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations.....	150,862	863	150,048	808	170,627	840	152,041	837
Lapsing Balances	2,154	-	3,495	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	17,700	-	16,786	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available.....	170,716	863	170,329	808	170,627	840	152,041	837

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Table FNS-110. NPA Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

Item No.	Item	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Estimate	2020 Budget
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$38,210	\$38,640	\$40,883	\$40,738
	Personnel Compensation, Field	46,435	45,361	47,994	47,822
11	Total personnel compensation.....	84,645	84,001	88,877	88,560
12	Personal benefits.....	28,500	28,487	28,067	27,966
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	-	26	26	26
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	113,145	112,514	116,970	116,552
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	1,832	1,791	1,791	1,791
22.0	Transportation of things.....	1	19	19	19
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	12,907	13,139	13,721	13,221
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	19	6	6	50
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	184	223	223	223
24.0	Printing and reproduction	270	260	260	260
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	-	-	-	-
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	14,668	15,089	14,672	12,121
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	3,454	3,145	3,231	6,856
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	26	1	1	1
25.5	Research and development contracts	-	-	-	-
25.6	Medical care	11	6	6	6
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	72	18	18	18
25.8	Subsistence and support of persons	8	1	1	1
26.0	Supplies and materials	1,109	573	573	573
31.0	Equipment	140	152	152	152
32.0	Land and structures.....	-	914	16,786	-
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	2,944	2,000	2,000	-
42	Insurance Claims and indemnities	72	197	197	197
	Total, Other Objects.....	37,717	37,534	53,657	35,489
99.9	Total, new obligations	150,862	150,048	170,627	152,041
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3).....	\$1,301	\$1,406	\$1,492	\$1,617
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	\$177,960	\$184,944	\$184,944	\$184,944
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$98,204	\$104,748	\$106,319	\$107,914
	Average Grade, GS Position	12.3	12.6	12.6	12.6

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

The Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA) appropriation funds operating expenses for administering the nutrition assistance programs of FNS.

FNS Administrative Resources – A Critical Program Management and Oversight Tool

FNS employees play a central role in managing the Federal nutrition assistance programs. While the programs operate in partnership with State agencies and local service providers, FNS is solely responsible for developing program policies and regulations. The policies and regulations ensure program design and operation are consistent with the law and current nutrition science. FNS disburses and accounts for Federal funds provided to those who operate the programs. In addition, FNS monitors program operations and conducts oversight, technical assistance and evaluation to ensure that programs are managed and operated consistent with law and to maximize their effectiveness and value to clients and taxpayers.

Meeting these responsibilities is central to accomplishing core program objectives, including ensuring access to benefits for eligible individuals, improving the nutrition of program recipients, and strengthening program integrity. Ongoing efforts to improve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) integrity, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) management, Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) vendor cost containment, and school meals certification accuracy are critical to the Agency's mission and require intensive staff focus and travel funding.

While substantial funding is also provided to States to operate these programs, State agencies have fundamentally different financial incentives than the Federal Government. In many areas, the cost of program problems or inefficiencies affects Federal expenditures, while the cost to resolve them has an impact on the States. Therefore, strong Federal policy and oversight are fundamental to ensuring effective levels of program accountability.

Although information technology improvements have resulted in large productivity gains in the past decade, many of FNS' functions are labor-intensive and require ongoing attention. Since the NPA appropriation funds most of the salaries and administrative expenses of FNS, it is integral to ensuring and leveraging the effective use of other program appropriations. Over the last two decades, FNS staff levels have not increased significantly – particularly considering the growing fiduciary responsibilities of the Agency and the increasing complexity of the programs it administers. Administrative funding for FNS accounts for about two-tenths of one percent of the total investment in nutrition assistance.

The most significant accomplishments under this NPA appropriation during FY 2018 are cited below by program and activity.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

For SNAP, NPA funding is used for a range of critically important functions. FNS develops policies and procedures for the administration of the program, provides State agency oversight to ensure compliance with program rules, and provides technical assistance to States. The agency also reviews State quality control activities, determines the effectiveness and efficiency of State administration, and reviews and approves planning documents for computer system acquisitions and electronic benefit transfer issuance systems. FNS authorizes and monitors 256,516 retail and wholesale firms that are approved to accept SNAP benefits, and maintains fiscal accountability for SNAP benefits.

State Oversight

Proper administration of SNAP is critical to program integrity. Program oversight and monitoring is one of FNS' fundamental roles. Through its seven regional offices, FNS conducts various on-site reviews of State and local SNAP offices continuously throughout each year. Management Evaluation (ME) Reviews provide FNS with an in depth look at high risk or critically important components of program administration.

In FY 2018, FNS continued to bolster the SNAP ME process to ensure compliance with program requirements, improve integrity, and protect access for eligible households. Enhancements to SNAP ME standard operating procedures and guidance were made to increase standardization and ensure that reviews are being performed consistently across the country, policy compliance issues are identified before they become serious problems, and effective corrective actions are implemented. In addition, enhancements to MEMS NextGen, a system implemented in FY 2016 to monitor and track the status of ME review and State corrective actions, were implemented to provide

expanded reporting functionality to allow FNS to identify chronic problems and assist in targeting actions to correct those problems.

FNS encourages States to consider ways to increase efficiencies and the effectiveness of their program administration and operations. FNS continues to provide State exchange funds to facilitate State and local agency travel to observe innovative practices which may be transferable. FNS also works with an increasing number of State agencies that are contemplating large-scale changes to their business models for delivering social services.

FNS provides technical assistance and performs strong oversight of States to ensure that workload management projects and other innovations are implemented in a successful manner to deliver program benefits more effectively and efficiently, using fewer resources without sacrificing customer service, program access or program integrity.

Improving Program Integrity

FNS made important advances in its efforts to improve payment accuracy and retailer integrity.

Payment Accuracy

In FY 2018, FNS issued the national and State SNAP payment error rates on target by June 30, 2018 for the first time in three years. FNS began the process to reform the Quality Control system to improve integrity and accuracy and modernize how SNAP measures improper payments by publishing a request for information (RFI) in the Federal Register to obtain input from stakeholders.

Recipient Claims

State agencies collected approximately \$392 million (preliminary; subject to change when reporting completed for all states. FNS continued to monitor corrective actions performed by States to address previously identified deficiencies in recipient claims systems.

System for Award Management (SAM)

SAM is the government wide system for suspension and debarment. These retailers have been disqualified from SNAP for breaking the law. FNS successfully uploaded 1,993 disqualified retailers to the SAM database. FNS responded to 7,007 SAM inquiries during FY 2018.

Retailer Oversight and Integrity

In FY 2018, FNS staff authorized or reauthorized 45,893 retailers to participate in SNAP. FNS utilized contractor store visits to verify the initial or continued eligibility of 40,294 stores participating in SNAP. In this same period, 24,655 firms were withdrawn from participation because of changes in ownership, business closings, or nonconformance with authorization criteria. In addition, 2,662 stores were fined or disqualified temporarily or permanently for noncompliance with law or SNAP regulations. At the end of FY 2018, a total of 256,516 stores were authorized to participate in SNAP, a decrease of 6,589 stores from FY 2017 and a decrease of 2,116 stores since FY 2015.

During FY 2018, FNS conducted undercover investigations of 6,454 stores nationwide. Approximately 39 percent (2,545) of these investigations documented evidence of SNAP violations. Of the 2,545 investigations, FNS investigators uncovered trafficking in 312 stores.

Overall, FNS compliance analysts and investigators reviewed 27,903 stores for compliance monitoring purposes. As a result, there were 2,662 sanctions, including 1,555 stores permanently disqualified from the program in FY 2018.

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems

FNS continues oversight of States as their EBT contracts end and they procure EBT systems through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. This process includes State RFP approvals, contract approvals, as well as oversight of State conversions from one EBT vendor's system to a new vendor's system. In FY 2018, FNS approved nine RFPs, six contracts, and reviewed and approved 11 EBT contract amendments.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR)

The NPA appropriation funds Federal staff administrative expenses to administer FDPIR. Through FDPIR, FNS acquires and distributes USDA Foods to participating Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and State agencies for distribution to income-eligible households residing on Indian reservations and income-eligible Indian households living in designated service areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. Funding is also provided to the ITOs/State agencies to support the administrative cost of operating the program as well as for nutrition education efforts. FNS

sets standards for participant and provider eligibility and provides training and other assistance to program partners as needed. More information about FDPIR activities during FY 2018 is provided in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program account section.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

NPA funds a portion of the Federal administration of the WIC Program. FNS uses these funds to manage the allocation of grant resources to State Departments of Health and others to support program operations. NPA also supports the development of policies, procedures, and standards used in administering the program and monitoring of State agency operations to ensure program effectiveness and compliance with law and regulation.

Highlights of FY 2018 accomplishments supported by the NPA appropriation and related to the WIC Program included but were not limited to important advances to improve nutrition education services in the program:

Nutrition Education Materials

In FY 2018, breastfeeding educational resources were translated into Spanish, with the collaboration of the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP). These materials included: WIC Breastfeeding Basics; WIC Circle of Care; WIC Fact Sheet; Partnering with WIC; Breastfeeding Basics for Grandmas; Breastfeeding Basics for Dads; Ready, Set, Breastfeed; WIC Breastfeeding Campaign One-Pager; WIC Flyer; and WIC Moms Helping Moms. FNS also developed a food package assessment tool for WIC agencies to use when determining the appropriate food package to issue to the partially breastfed mother/infant dyad.

WIC Works Resource System

In FY 2018, FNS staff completed a major redesign of the WIC Works Resource System to be compliant with USDA standards for public websites. During National WIC Breastfeeding Week, WIC Works highlighted the launch of the updated WIC breastfeeding campaign. WIC Works also highlighted the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) new Infant and Toddler Nutrition website and FNS' collaboration with CDC to revise and co-brand Human Milk Storage Guidelines.

WIC Learning Online (WLOL)

There were over 13,000 course completions in FY 2018 for the seven courses offered for WIC staff continuing education.

WIC Breastfeeding Support

A new website was launched, wicbreastfeeding.fns.usda.gov, that focuses on the updated national WIC breastfeeding campaign, *WIC Breastfeeding Support. Learn Together. Grow Together.*

Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA)

FNS awarded a contract in FY 2018 to update the VENA Guidance to reflect current program policy, references and resources into a user-friendly, web-based, interactive document.

Loving Support Awards of Excellence

In FY 2018, FNS awarded Loving Support Awards of Excellence to 90 WIC local agencies from all seven FNS regions. A total of 78 WIC local agencies received Gold award certificates and 12 WIC local agencies received Premiere award certificates.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The NPA appropriation funds the staff administrative expenses of the Commodity Assistance Program (CAP). In addition to providing commodities, also known as USDA Foods, for the Child Nutrition Programs, FNS makes nutritious foods available to State agencies for distribution to low-income people through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and makes administrative resources available to States to support the distribution of these USDA Foods. The Agency may also provide USDA Foods to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, The Federated States of Micronesia, and to the survivors of Presidentially-declared disasters and situations of distress.

More information about the CAP programs during FY 2018 is described under "Acquisition and Distribution of USDA Foods" in the Child Nutrition Programs section.

Special USDA Foods Initiatives

FNS continues to work closely with its partners and customers, such as schools and industry, and with its two sister agencies within USDA – the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) – to improve service to its customers, streamline operations, and maintain support for American agriculture. Highlights of FNS’ most recent efforts in this area include:

Multi-Agency Task Force

FNS is the lead for the multi-agency task force that provides coordination and direction for USDA Foods programs, pursuant to Section 4209 of the 2014 Farm Bill. By law, the task force includes representatives of the Food Distribution Division of FNS (Chair), AMS, FSIS, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA), which previously held commodity procurement responsibilities prior to a consolidation of such activities under AMS. The task force meets quarterly and submits a report to Congress each year which summarizes the task force’s activities to improve USDA Foods procurement programs.

USDA Foods Nutrition Initiative

FNS and AMS continually review USDA Foods to improve and enhance the nutrition profile of USDA Foods offered to program participants. In addition, FNS responds to input from stakeholders by adding new foods or reformulating existing products to help meet the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and meal pattern requirements.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES***Debt Collection Activity in FY 2018***

For Federally-managed Federal debt, FNS continued its vigorous pursuit of debt owed to the Agency by billing \$277 million in new receivables during the fiscal year. Year-end outstanding debts for the fiscal year increased from the previous year by \$13 million. The overall debt resolution rate achieved was about 99 percent.

In its accounts receivable, FNS also records the Federal share of the value of recipient overpayments established by SNAP State agencies. State agencies are allowed to retain a portion of the claims collected. The receivable consists of the total claims established less the States’ share.

For Federal debts managed by SNAP State agencies, such agencies establish claims against households for errors in issuing program benefits to these households. These overpayments can result from the client’s incorrect reporting of household circumstances, through client fraud, or by State administrative error.

SNAP Recipient Claims Activity***Table FNS-111. FY 2016 – FY 2018 (millions of dollars; preliminary results)***

Claims Activity	2016	2017	2018
Claims Established.....	\$553	\$456	\$376
Claims Collected.....	350	346	447
Ending Balance.....	1,990	2,050	2,087

Financial Management (FM) Regional Office Reviews

The FM organization conducts assessments of regional offices with the objective of ensuring the propriety of financial operations and transactions within FNS. These reviews have been instrumental in raising the confidence level of management officials within the Agency over the past several fiscal years.

Financial Management Reviews (FMRs)

In addition to the reviews that HQ staff conduct of the regional offices, the regions also conduct FMRs of participating State agencies and ITOs to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial information reported by such grantees is correct, complete, and in compliance with Federal standards and regulations. FNS has implemented a risk assessment process that assists FNS in selecting for review those State agencies and ITOs who pose the greatest financial management risk.

Financial Statements Audit

FNS received an unmodified (“clean”) opinion on the FY 2018 Financial Statements, meaning that the agency met the highest auditing standards.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Acquisition Strategies

The FNS FY 2018 procurement strategy was anchored by the Agency’s commitment to increase contracting opportunities for small businesses in order to provide customers and taxpayers the benefit of creativity, innovation, and technical expertise. It also signaled the Agency’s support in driving the U.S. economy forward by helping small businesses to create jobs.

The Agency has been USDA’s innovative forerunner by conducting the Small Business Outreach Roundtable Program. This program positioned the agency to award 61 percent of the Agency’s FY 2018 portfolio to small businesses. FNS exceeded its established goals for Small Disadvantaged (SDB).

Acquisition Tracking

Table FNS-112. Business Categories

Category	Goal	Actual
Small Business	49%	61%
Small Disadvantaged Business.....	5%	33.5%
8 (a).....	5%	5.74%
Women-Owned Small Business.....	5%	25%
Hub Zones.....	3%	5.14%
Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business	3%	5.35%
Veteran-Owned Small Business.....	3%	6%

Improved Business Processes

FNS uses the ARCHIBUS software system to increase the accuracy, efficiency and reliability of our real and personal property management functions. In FY 2018, FNS implemented the Asset Management Module which supported the electronic issuance of hand receipts to employees and eliminated the need for paper files. In addition, FNS streamlined the annual inventory date which is populated at the time an item is scanned. At the end of the inventory process reports can be pulled to easily identify missing items, improve the inventory accuracy rate, and is used to populate performance dashboards for FNS leadership.

Employee Engagement

The Agency’s commitment is to increase employee engagement, align human resources objectives with the organization’s vision and goals and ensure that equity of opportunity is extended to empower all employees to reach their full potential. The Agency advances a customer centric, inclusive and high performance workforce by investing in and engaging employees to improve professional proficiencies and close employee competency gaps, developing future leaders.

In FY 2018, FNS completed redesign of its intranet home page to facilitate a more open and transparent work environment using communications themes that reinforced our mission to help drive performance and connect employees. The redesigned front-page now streamlines communications and engages employees with useful and dynamic content. The home page is divided into themes to communicate collective impact, tools and resources to help employees improve, employee recognition, and FNS community and how employees support one another.

In addition, an Intranet Governance Plan was developed that instructs employees on protocols to ensure compliance with the new processes. Since the launch in April 2018, more than 40 news stories have been published to inform and connect employees including: 15 Employee Spotlights; 3 Customer Experience Stories; 3 Diversity and Inclusion spotlights; 5 Training/Learning Tips; 19 Internal Community stories.

Performance Management

In support of the human capital management strategies and in accordance with OMB M-17-22; the Learning and Development Branch, Human Resources Division (HRD), launched a series of learning and growth opportunities for supervisors around performance management, with focus areas addressing poor performance, transforming individual contributors into exceptional performers, valuing differences, communicating with impact and setting goals and reviewing results. The training evaluations produced favorable feedback. This learning series supports the President’s Management Agenda (PMA) to improve government capabilities and competencies to yield a 21st Century workforce.

Human Capital

HRD developed its first Workforce Planning Guide, including workforce data and workforce assessment strategies, for agency leaders to use in developing a strategic approach to building a comprehensive agency human capital plan. This initiative aligns FNS with the targets identified in OMB M-17-22 and the President's 2018 Management Agenda, by reducing accumulated regulatory burdens, organizational silos and operating costs, aligning workforce needs to address foreseeable workforce challenges in a consistent, effective and efficient manner, and improving overall service delivery.

In response to the call from the Secretary of Agriculture mission to make OneUSDA the most effective, efficient and customer focused department, HRD continued implementation of its client survey and established a baseline of 80% overall customer satisfaction in FY 2017. In FY 2018, HRD set the goal to improve the baseline score by 10 points to move from 80% to 90% with overall customer satisfaction. HRD successfully attained the goal by implementing strategies for increased customer engagement and customer feedback at engagement events such as: staff meetings, leadership briefings, and organizational all-hands meetings. The overall feedback afforded the human resources division the opportunity to modernize its processes and technology to achieve improved service delivery and effectiveness.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I)

FNS' hiring objective is to increase workforce diversity. All associated tasks have been accomplished to support this objective, including active recruitment efforts and strategies to increase the use of Schedule A and Peace Corps non-competitive appointments and providing training to hiring managers to expand the opportunities for non-competitive hiring authorities for all target groups. Recruitment efforts have also been used to focus on Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Veteran organizations, and affiliates for the disabled. The Human Resources Division combined efforts with the agency Diversity and Inclusion office to cross-utilize efforts and resources to expand awareness of the importance of a diverse workforce. In FY 2018, the agency continues to promote the use of non-competitive hiring authorities among hiring managers and supervisors in order to increase workforce diversity, particularly under-represented groups.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Assessment

The Conflict Prevention & Resolution (CPR) program completed its second year in FY 2018 and overall is better off than last year. More time was dedicated to developing the CPR program. On-going research from Federal and non-federal organizations, helped create *standards of practices* involving Ombudsman work, building diversity, and conflict coaching. Also a "*CPR program resource book*" was drafted to include all templates, PowerPoints, handouts, websites, and legal resources.

All requests for CPR services were responded to within a *24 hour time period* as laid out in the *Customer Service Agreement*. Six (6) mediations were completed in FY 2018. Of the six (6) mediations, 30 percent resulted in non-binding agreements (i.e. resolution). Two (2) of the mediations were online. Other CPR techniques doubled this year (a total of 8) to include more climate assessments, conflict coaching, settlement conference, and above all – conflict management training. More specifically, Email Conflict Training was done four times and became mandatory training for some division managers. Further education around the benefits of CPR continues at new employee orientations, brown bag sessions, all-hands meetings and affinity groups, with the purpose to help FNS employees/management recognize conflict at the earliest stage possible.

National Office Move

The FNS headquarters office has secured a lease to move within the city of Alexandria from the Park Office Center location (occupied since 1985) to Braddock Metro Center II in Old Town Alexandria during 2019.

During FY 2018, the Agency worked with GSA to finalize space configurations, surveyed staff on preferences, worked collaboratively with programmatic tiger teams, and continued to work with the local union in accordance with our collective bargaining agreement. FNS has completed the planning phase. In addition, FNS created a "living lab" containing the various cubicle and office furniture. FNS also launched a National Office Move web page. The web page is used as a method of communicating with employees on the National Office move project schedule and coming events as well as providing monthly updates on the progress of the project. Finally, FNS began a records management project to assist employees with archiving and disposing of files in accordance with federal law. The next phase of the project will include construction culminating in our move to the new space.

CENTER FOR NUTRITION POLICY AND PROMOTION

Merged into USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in FY 2018, the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) works to improve the health and well-being of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links evidence-based scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers. FNS carries out its mission to improve the health of Americans by Serving as the Federal authority on evidence-based food, nutrition and economic analyses that inform policy and programs; translating science into actionable food and nutrition guidance for all Americans; and leading national communication initiatives that apply science-based messages to advance consumers' dietary and economic knowledge and behaviors.

Major initiatives include the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, the Nutrition Evidence Library (NEL), MyPlate, the Healthy Eating Index, USDA Food Plans, Food Pattern Modeling, and calculating Expenditures on Children. To ensure efficiency while maintaining integrity and quality across its initiatives, FNS is committed to continuous quality advancement by incorporating best practices into all initiatives.

FNS makes key contributions to USDA's priority of ensuring that America's children (and their families) have access to nutritious, balanced meals. FNS does this by translating nutrition guidance into innovative, consumer-focused nutrition initiatives to provide the public with information and ways to make healthy eating choices and be physically active. Our mission, vision, goals, priorities, and values exemplify our commitment to performance that meet the needs of the American public - *driving greater integration and collaboration for greater impact*. FNS' resources are widely used by consumers, health professionals, nutrition educators, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders serving the public.

Development and Promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans

The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans (Dietary Guidelines)* provides a science-based foundation to help inform Federal nutrition education and promotion programs, including the major vehicle for implementing the *Dietary Guidelines* – MyPlate. The *Dietary Guidelines* is also widely adopted in the private sector, mainly by education and health professionals. Within USDA, the *Dietary Guidelines* is used by the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Child Nutrition Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** to guide nutrition standards and benefit levels for participants ages 2 years and older. During FY 2018, CNPP collaborated with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by:

Promoting the *2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines* and supporting resources through communications activities and outreach at conferences.

Prepared for beginning the process to develop the 2020-2025 edition, convened listening sessions with a broad range of stakeholders for feedback on the completed study on the Dietary Guidelines development process, conducted by the Health and Medicine Division (HMD) of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Transcripts and written comments submitted are available publicly at <https://www.cnpp.usda.gov/health-and-medicine-division-study>.

Incorporating recommendations from HMD and stakeholder listening sessions, added a new step to the beginning of the Dietary Guidelines development process. Introduced to precede nominations for the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee), posted for a 30-day public comment proposed topics and supporting scientific questions the Departments would ask the Advisory Committee to focus on for its scientific review. Conducted webinar for stakeholders to provide clear and detailed information on criteria and requirements for nominations and to answer questions. Pushed out announcement with links to resources via list serv notice and social media to over 150,000 subscribers and via social media to over 100,000 followers on Twitter and over 100,000 followers on Facebook. All comments received are available publicly at https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USDA_FRDOC_0001-1803.

Releasing the revised topics and questions that reflect public input (available publicly at <https://www.cnpp.usda.gov/dietary-guidelines#See%20the%20Topics%20and%20Scientific%20Questions%20to%20be%20Examined%20by%20the%20Committee>) with a 30-day public call for nominations (available at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FNS-2018-0039>) to the Advisory Committee. Conducted webinar for stakeholders to provide clear and detailed information on criteria and requirements for nominations, and to answer questions. Pushed out announcement with

links to resources via list serv notice and social media to over 150,000 subscribers and via social media to over 100,000 followers on Twitter and over 100,000 followers on Facebook.

Continuing planning for the development of the 2020-2025 *Dietary Guidelines*, including entering into a memorandum of understanding that provides a framework for cooperation between USDA and HHS for preparing the 2020-2025 *Dietary Guidelines*, developing and routing the charter for the Advisory Committee, and redesigning DietaryGuidelines.gov to enhance the communication and transparency of the process.

Examining Preliminary Diet and Health Topics for Women who are Pregnant and Children from Birth to 24 Months of Age

The Agricultural Act of 2014 states that beginning with the 2020-2025 edition, the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* shall include recommendations for pregnant women and children from birth to age 24 months. USDA has worked closely with HHS for the past several years to develop a framework for meeting this charge. In FY 2018, FNS' NEL team, collaborating with programmatic and scientific experts, completed a small number of systematic reviews on diet and health for infants, toddlers, and women who are pregnant. The NEL team supported completion of six families of systematic review questions, which included input from more than 50 subject matter experts, involved screening approximately 100,000 articles, and the evaluation and synthesis of over 500 articles. The findings from this work will be made publicly available at the completion of the project on the NEL website at https://www.cnpp.usda.gov/nutritionevidencelibrary_2 through a peer-reviewed journal supplement in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, and through presentations at national meetings.

Contributions of Nutrition Evidence Library (NEL)

The NEL is a team of staff who are experts in systematic review methodology in CNPP who specializes in conducting food- and nutrition-related systematic reviews. NEL systematic reviews answer important public health questions by evaluating scientific evidence on topics relevant to Federal policy and programs. The NEL staff collaborates with leading scientists to objectively review, evaluate, and synthesize research using state-of-the-art methodology. The use of NEL's rigorous protocol-driven methodology promotes scientific integrity. Because of its evidence-based approach, NEL's work supports compliance with the Data Quality Act, which mandates that Federal agencies ensure the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information used to form Federal guidance. The NEL has the ability to expand to conduct additional systematic reviews and other evidence-based products when needed by the Department and is also a key resource for identifying research limitations and gaps to inform food and nutrition research agendas. During FY 2018, NEL:

Continued to support the Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months (P/B-24) Project. NEL staff worked with four Technical Expert Collaboratives to conduct a small number of systematic reviews on diet and health for infants, toddlers, and women who are pregnant. This work is expected to be completed and made public in 2019, via the NEL website at www.cnpp.usda.gov/nutritionevidencelibrary, through a peer-reviewed journal supplement, and presentations at national meetings. The focus of this work has been on evidence related to human milk and formula feeding; feeding practices, acceptability, and intake; complementary feeding; and diet during pregnancy.

Continued a Continuous Quality Advancement (CQA) initiative to ensure its process remains state-of-the-art. NEL's CQA involves enhancing staff knowledge and skills through: ongoing training and professional development, leveraging the expertise of and collaborating with methodologists from other leading systematic review organizations, and expanding technological infrastructure. By aligning with current best practices, NEL's CQA initiative promotes efficiency and resource management, and ensures the ongoing high quality and credibility of NEL work. In addition, the CQA work takes into consideration feedback received from the National Academies of Science, Health and Medicine Division report (as part of the "Review of the Process to Update the Dietary Guidelines for Americans"). During FY 2018, NEL staff focused on CQA related to literature screening, data extraction, risk of bias assessment, grading the strength of evidence, and processes for conducting meta-analyses. NEL has been redesigning its website to enhance transparency and accessibility to NEL reviews.

Worked to expand its services to support other Federal food- and nutrition-related efforts through rigorous, evidence-based offerings, such as rapid reviews, scoping reviews, and evidence scans that may help inform time-sensitive initiatives/projects and systematic review protocol development. Designed to meet the time-sensitive needs of the end-user, these products typically use condensed systematic review methods that adhere to the same principles of minimizing bias and promotes transparency and scientific integrity. For example, NEL has conducted a series of rapid reviews for the Foreign Agriculture Service to inform the USDA McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Encouraging Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Behaviors with MyPlate, Digital Efforts, and Partnerships

Through a multi-pronged approach, FNS has worked to raise the profile of MyPlate and to share advice and tools with consumers on how to build healthy eating solutions into their everyday life. Released in 2011, today six in ten consumers surveyed recognize the MyPlate graphic and 79 percent of dietitians report using MyPlate to educate their clients about nutrition.

CNPP continued to lead the What's Cooking? USDA Mixing Bowl project, a collaboration between CNPP, SNAP, Child Nutrition and Food Distribution to consolidate program recipes and create a user-friendly and visually appealing online tool. In June 2018, the team replaced the log-in feature (previously provided through SuperTracker) to maintain the capability for users to save favorite recipes, cookbooks, and shopping lists for future use. Additionally, the log-in feature was optimized to provide a password reset option as well as ongoing phases of error remediation, development, testing, and general maintenance of the site.

ChooseMyPlate.gov had a total of 8.1 million visitors and 72 million page views. New features launched this year include a smaller version of the MyPlate Plan widget, allowing organizations and individuals to embed a nutrition plan calculator in their own websites with greater ease and less allocated space. A Spanish widget (in two sizes) was also made available, increasing audience reach. The widgets now direct users to one of 26 customized calorie plan pages (each in English and Spanish), which show the user their food group amounts and direct them to supporting resources to make healthy food choices.

Since 2011, SuperTracker provided 27 million users with the ability to track their food and physical activity to support a healthier lifestyle. Since that time, the private sector has launched many great tools that have a shared mission. It was time to discontinue SuperTracker in order to invest in more modern and efficient ways to help Americans find a healthy eating style that is right for them. As part of USDA's commitment to ensure that all of our programs are delivered efficiently and effectively, SuperTracker was discontinued on June 30, 2018.

Gained a total of 88,000 new subscribers and 648,000 additional subscriptions using GovDelivery, representing an increase of 12.5 percent over FY 2017.

The current total number of @MyPlate Twitter followers is 100,893 and Facebook followers is 100,673. Combined, MyPlate social media efforts generated 9.2 million impressions.

The Nutrition Communicators Network's National Strategic Partnership, comprised of organizations with national reach, welcomed five new partners and five renewed partners, increasing the total membership to 112 partner organizations ranging from leading health professional and educational organizations to food associations, manufacturers and other companies.

USDA Food Plans Inform SNAP and Serve the Military

The four USDA Food Plans (Thrifty, Low-Cost, Moderate-Cost, and Liberal) are national standards for nutritious diets at various cost levels. Each plan represents a set of market baskets containing a selection of foods in quantities that reflect dietary recommendations and are applicable to one of 15 age-gender groups. The Thrifty Food Plan (a minimal-cost, nutritious diet) is used as the basis for SNAP allotments, serving 21.3 million households. The Moderate-Cost and Liberal Food Plans are used by the Department of Defense to determine the Basic Allowance for Subsistence rate (food allowance) for 1.4 million U.S. service members. During FY 2018, the monthly USDA Food Plans were updated to reflect the latest prices of food.

Healthy Eating Index Tracks the Quality of the U.S. Diet

The Healthy Eating Index (HEI) is designed to assess diet quality in terms of how well diets align with the *Dietary Guidelines*. FNS uses the HEI to monitor the diet quality of the American population and subpopulations of particular interest. During FY 2018, FNS accomplished the following:

Completed work to update the HEI-2015, in collaboration with staff at the National Cancer Institute, to reflect the 2015 *Dietary Guidelines*. These efforts included consideration of key components, component scoring, and validation. Three manuscripts describing the updated, evaluation, and applications of the Healthy Eating Index 2015 were published in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. The paper titled "Update to the Healthy Eating Index: HEI-2015" is the 5th most read article from the publishing journal as of October 30, 2018.

Launched revised Healthy Eating Index web site on www.cnpp.gov/healthyeatingindex that describes the HEI in plain language.

Updated the HEI-2015 scores for all Americans (ages 2 and older) as well as scores specific to children (ages 2-17 yr.) and older adults (ages 65 and older) using National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 2013-2014 data. Total HEI scores for all age groups are suboptimal; however, scores have improved over time. Older adults have the highest HEI scores when compared to other age groups.

Provided age group specific scores for the *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2017* published by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.

How Healthy Is the American Diet?



Expenditures on Children by Families Report Helps Inform Child Support and Foster Care Payments

Since 1960, USDA has annually issued its *Expenditures on Children by Families* report. This report examines current child-rearing expenses for the major household budgetary components: Housing, food, transportation, clothing, health care, child care and education, and miscellaneous expenses (e.g., personal care items and entertainment). Expenses are examined by age of the child, household income level, and region of residence. These expense estimates are used by some States to inform child support guidelines and foster care payments. During FY 2018, staff explored best practices for analytic methods applied to the Cost of Raising a Child. Publication is anticipated in FY 2019 along with a state of the art online calculator that will communicate the results of the report to American families and aid in financial planning for families with children.

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) was established August 8, 1969, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1659 and Supplement 1 pursuant to the authority contained in 5 U.S.C. 301 and the Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953. FNS increases food security and reduces hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence. FNS administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 15 nutrition assistance programs. These programs, which serve one in four Americans over the course of a year, are designed to provide low-income persons with access to a more nutritious diet, to improve the eating habits of the Nation's children, and to help America's farmers by providing an outlet for food purchased under agricultural support authorities.

The work of FNS supports the following components of USDA's Strategic Plan for 2018-2022.

Strategic Goal 7: Provide all Americans access to a safe, nutritious, and secure food supply

Objective 7.2: Provide access to safe and nutritious food for low-income people while supporting a pathway to self-sufficiency

Objective 7.3: Support and encourage healthy dietary choices through data driven, flexible, and customer-focused approaches

In addition, through reforms to our organization, workforce, and business processes, we will contribute to USDA's Strategic Goal 1: Ensure USDA programs are Delivered Efficiently, Effectively, and with Integrity.

Key Performance Measures:

- Percentage of American households with consistent, dependable access to food
- Percentage of SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) participants engaged in education and skills-based training
- Annual percentage of eligible children participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Annual percentage of eligible children participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP)

Table FNS – 113. Key Performance Targets

Annual Performance Indicators	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actuals	2019 Target	2020 Target
Percentage of American households with consistent, dependable access to food	87.7%	88.2%	87.7% ^a	87.9%	88%
Percentage of SNAP Education & Training participants engaged in education and skills-based training ^b	N/A	N/A	25.5%	27.5%	29.5%
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).	59%	58%	58%	59%	59%
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP).....	30%	30%	30%	30%	31%

^a Figure is a target, since actual data not available

^b States have flexibility to provide a wide range of E&T services but the most common are typically job search and workfare. This indicator will measure an increase in the portion of all E&T participants engaged in more intensive skill-based training, such as vocational and occupational training or on-the-job training

SELECTED PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE KEY OUTCOMES

In 2017, 88.2 percent of American households had consistent, dependable access to food.

In 2018, 58 percent of eligible children participated in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and over 30 percent of eligible children participated in the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

FNS supports helping SNAP recipients become self-sufficient through SNAP E&T programs. FNS increased its capacity at the national and regional levels to work directly with all states to improve E&T, and through its SNAP to Skills (S2S) Project provided more targeted technical assistance to 15 States. Through S2S, FNS also created tools and resources that are available to all states and other stakeholders.

SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS EXPECTED AT THE 2020 PROPOSED RESOURCE LEVEL

In 2020, as the economy continues to improve, over 88 percent of American households will have consistent, dependable access to food.

Although the prevalence of households that are food secure has continued to increase after reaching its lowest level in 2011, it is still not at the pre-recessionary level of 89 percent (2005-2007). About 58 percent of the food insecure households reported that they participated in SNAP, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or the National School Lunch Program in the month prior to the survey. Therefore, the need for developing and implementing evidence-based strategies that can further increase the percentage of low-income households with consistent and dependable access to food continues.

The NSLP participation rate will reach 59 percent.

During the school day over 51 million children attend schools operating the National School Lunch Program with about 30 million children participating each day. Of the 30 million children participating, about 22 million are receiving free or reduced price lunches each day. In recent years, program provisions designed to improve access, streamline administrative requirements for local school officials, and eliminate barriers to participating in the school meal programs have resulted in a 20 percent increase in the number of children eligible for and participating in the school lunch program.

40 percent of SNAP Employment and Training participants will be engaged in education and skills based training.

In FY 2020, FNS will work to enhance the quality and outcomes of SNAP E&T programs by developing a national technical assistance strategy to best position States to expand and strengthen SNAP E&T under a common vision. National leadership activities would include supporting successful projects such as the SNAP to Skills Project and developing other activities to promote the use of employer-driven, skills-based strategies.